

SOCCER



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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE

North Sends Olympic North

By John Economos

JADE NORTH, the Olympic Sharks' make-shift striker, scored a brilliant brace last Sunday night which not only sent the injury depleted Sydney United crashing to a 1-4 defeat, but simultaneously catapulted the previously goal-starved Sharks into fourth spot on the League ladder.

Prior to last Sunday, Olympic, after 13 Rounds, had scored a miserly 13 goals, by far the lowest in the Top Six.

Normally a wide midfielder, but lately used by coach Gary Phillips as a central

marker, North on Sunday injected much-needed firepower to Olympic's sedate attack.

With strikers Jeromy Harris injured and Nicky Carle just back last Friday night from trials in France with Club side Troyes, Phillips had carefully experimented during the week at Olympic's training sessions by converting North from the backline to a front runner.

"I knew he could do it because up in Queensland as a Junior he actually was a striker."

"It's another option that I'm now sure I can utilise, which is comforting," commented Phillips.

"Jade is of such all round solid value that the downside now is that I need to find another defender," jested Phillips.

"In all seriousness though, the key to our Sunday win was the solidarity in our defence, but we took our foot off the pedal."

"We need to have that killer instinct," Phillips wrapped up.

Phillips is hoping that North's recent red-hot form doesn't cool off over the next fortnight as Olympic this weekend has an untimely Bye.

Olympic's next match is away to the Melbourne Knights on Saturday week.

Okon bounces back

By Arvind Hickman

Australian captain Paul Okon made his debut for Watford in a 1-1 draw against Rotherham United last Saturday.

Okon was employed as a defensive midfielder, just in front of the back four.

It's a position the 29-year old relishes as he tries to find form after being sidelined all season under the iron fist of Steve McLaren at former club Middlesbrough.

Okon was typically diplomatic with his team's performance as they battle for promotion into the Premier League.

"It was a game where we were always going to have to battle, and I think that we probably lost the battle a little

bit in the second half," he said.

"We have to try and take something positive from the game. We've got a point and perhaps grinding out a result like this will help keep the season on track."



PAUL OKON: Debuts for new club Watford.



Watford Coach, Gianluca Vialli was impressed with the contribution of his newest signing, and is confident he will prove a hit at Vicarage Road.

"They (Okon and other new signing Jermaine Wright) did well when you consider they have only been with us for three days," he said after the game.

"I was pleased with Paul's distribution, and I think when he gets to know the players and how they play we will see even more from him."

"I am sure they will be two very good acquisitions for us."

Okon revealed that the opportunity to work with the former Italian international (Vialli) was a major factor for signing with the Hornets last Wednesday.



JADE NORTH: Olympic's newly-found marksman launches himself into a spectacular energetic back flip last Sunday night at Edensor Park after scoring the first of his two goals, which sent Sydney United crashing to a 1-4 defeat.

Good Oil Pages 4 & 5

Leichhardt's Viareggio 2002 (Pages 16-17)

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Clayton Zane (right): Attracting serious interest from Fulham.

Zane wanted by Fulham

Following the collapse of the deal that would have brought Norwegian striker John Carew to Fulham, the English Premiership side have now focussed attention on Aussie international striker, Clayton Zane.

Carew returned to Valencia last week after reportedly failing a medical at Fulham, forcing the club to shift their sights to Zane in a bid to cure a severe goals' drought that has limited the club's ambitions so far this season.

Fulham were reportedly considering a \$A8.5 million bid for Zane, which they hope will convince his Norwegian club, Lillestrom to part with the centre-forward.

Club sources say Lillestrom have not yet been contacted about the planned transfer but Fulham are expected to make their intentions clear this week or the next.

Fulham manager, Jean Tigana has coughed out a whopping A\$45million to import strikers - particularly from France - but it has done little to help the club make an impact in its debut season in the tough



Jean Tigana: Fulham coach.

English Premiership.

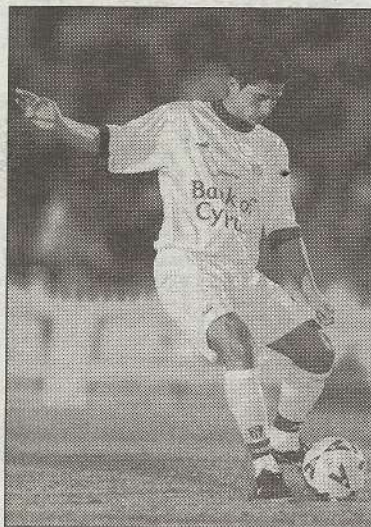
If the move to bring Zane materialises, it will represent a huge boost in his career which has progressed in leaps and bounds since he left Northern Spirit in the NSL for Molde, also in Norway.

The 24 year-old striker also has 16 national team appearances under his belt with a stunning winner against world champions France at last year's Confederations Cup, being the highlight of his international career.

Zane has also been prolific in Lillestrom's domestic campaign, ending the season with a total of 17 goals, which earned him the joint top-scorer in the league alongside Frode Johnsen and Thorstein Helstad.

The big Aussie is arguably one of the most underrated strikers in Europe, and was unlucky to be omitted from Australia's World Cup play-off defeat against Uruguay in November.

A potential stumbling block to the move however might be his lack of international matches - which may prove hard to obtain a work permit from the British Home Office.



Simon Colosimo: End of the City road.

Colosimo ends City sojourn

Simon Colosimo's six month stint with English first division side Manchester City ended late last week after deciding not to continue languishing in the club's reserves.

The 23 year-old was coach Kevin Keegan's second signing as soon as he took over the reins in June last year.

Keegan was quick to defend Colosimo's surprise departure. "What we did with Simon, because he had his injury and because he was coming from a different zone so we wanted to assess him, was to pay a nominal fee for him."

"We had a get-out clause in our favour. He had a three-year contract but if he didn't make ten starts in the first team by the time January 9th came then I could release him. I told him two months ago that is what I was going to do and that he wouldn't get to ten."

"I would like to help him find another club. It was one of those deals we did that was an opportunity, which didn't quite work. Maybe it is that we are strong in that position in which he plays."

The ex-South Melbourne defender has already trialled with Stoke City also in the first division.

The good form of three players in the same defensive position as Colosimo, restricted his appearance for Man. City to only one start in the Worthington Cup, in September and seven substitute appearances.

"It was an opportunity for him to make that position his own but it hasn't quite worked out for him. He did give it his best shot but I am sure there is a place for him in English football. But his contract has now run out here."

Veteran Hooker joins Kingz with relish

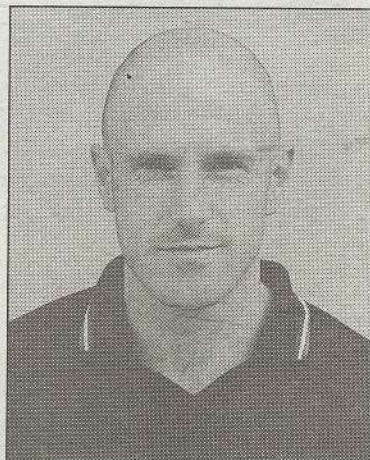
By Graham Cooke

A few days back, former Soccerroo defender Robbie Hooker was driving taxis in Sydney and losing hope that he would ever pull on another shirt in the National Soccer League.

"I was getting a bit depressed," he said. "The season was half over, I'd been keeping fit, but I hadn't been picked up and no-one seemed interested."

Then out of the blue came the call he had been waiting for, and last weekend the 34-year-old veteran began the task of remaking his career across the Tasman with Auckland Kingz - his seventh club in a 384-game NSL career that stretches back to 1985.

Within a day of his arrival on a two-week trial he was plunged into a friendly match with local club Mt Wellington. The



Robbie Hooker

Kingz won 3-1 and Hooker said he was reasonably happy with his game considering he had not played a competitive match for eight months.

"I'm registered and ready to do what-

ever I can for the Kingz," he said.

"They have a very professional set-up here and I am impressed."

He noted the media reports that said the Auckland team, currently languishing in second bottom position in the 13-strong competition, needed the experience he could bring to the back line in order to make progress.

"I've seen them only a couple of times live this season and I don't think the problem lies just with the defence," he said.

"I've seen situations where the ball has been lost in front of the opposition goal, and it has then been taken right down to the other end to score. You can't just blame the defence for situations like that."

"But perhaps the greatest single thing they have been missing out on is the organisation that can be built up from the back. The lines of communication through the team are not good and I think I can provide that."

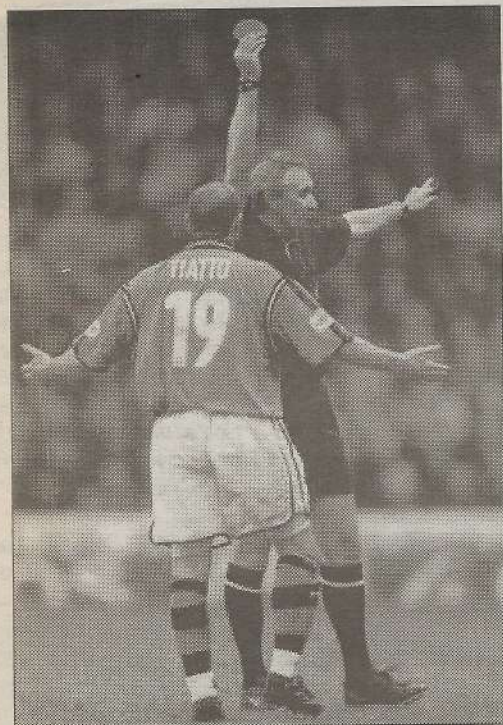
The collapse of the Canberra Cosmos less than two weeks before the beginning of the season was a massive blow to Hooker, who was captain of the National Capital club and planned to end his playing days there. Paradoxically, the long lay-off and the lifeline thrown by the Kingz may actually extend his career.

"When you have had so much time away from the game you are rested both physically and mentally," he said.

"The pressure has been right off and at this moment I feel refreshed and ready to keep playing in the NSL for at least another couple of seasons."

That would take Hooker close to 20 years of soccer in Australia's top flight, during a career that began with the long defunct Sydney City and continued with Sydney Olympic, West Adelaide Sharks, Sydney United, Marconi Stallions and the Cosmos.





Danny Tiatto of Man City is sent off during the Manchester City v Norwich City game.

Tiatto sees red again

By Bert van Bedaf

Con Boutsianis might be able to do without his mum, but he can't do without South Melbourne — and South not without him.

The on-off relationship the gifted forward has enjoyed with the Albert Park Lake club is on again.

A former Socceroo,

Boutsianis played for South between 1998-1995, 1997-98 as well as last season and he's come back for his fourth stint with the Melbourne club.

"Boutsi" turned out for his old club away against Perth last weekend and put in a solid 75 minutes in the goalless draw.

South managed a clearance from the Kingz only hours before the Perth kick-off. Boutsianis had left South at the end of last season to join the Kingz, where last-season's South coach Mike Petersen had taken up as coach.

But Petersen lasted only a few games.

Having fallen out with the Kingz over various contractual arrangements and personality clashes, Boutsianis returned to Melbourne only to live in exile and limbo.

Beleaguered South coach Eddie Krncevic explained the surprise on-field appearance of Boutsianis after the Perth draw.

"It was something I wanted to keep quiet in case it didn't come off, but it did and Con (Boutsianis) showed his class

It was another all-too-familiar red letter day for Aussie international, Danny Tiatto as he was sent off on Sunday night in an English first division game.

Manchester City, despite the 10-man disadvantage still beat Norwich City 3-1.

The highlight and easily the talking point of the game was Tiatto's 10th minute dismissal after an unfortunate clash with Norwich's Steen Nedregard.

Hot-tempered Tiatto lost his cool and earned the wrath of the match referee who flashed a straight red card for rough play.

Tiatto was sent off at the end of a sideline clash with Nedregard and the Socceroos' fiery midfielder was so incensed by the decision that he kicked over several water bottles before Man City coach, Kevin Keegan restrained him and managed to push him down the tunnel.

Boutsianis makes fourth homecoming

out there," Krncevic said.

"He played for 75 minutes and ran out of legs, which is normal because he hasn't played for six months. But he's a big plus for us," he said.

Part of the deal is that Boutsianis won't be playing against the Kiwi side at Bob Jane Stadium on Friday night. His first big Melbourne game will be against the Melbourne

was the agreement, but he's going to be a big help for us. He's a class player, one of the

best in Australia, and we can build on having him in the side," Krncevic said.

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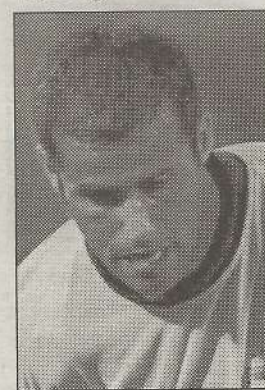
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Con Boutsianis

Knights at Colonial Stadium on February 8 and the following Friday against Northern Spirit at Bob Jane Stadium.

"He won't be playing against the Kingz, because that

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

IVO DE JESUS' late goal last Sunday night not only won the match for the Melbourne Knights, but knocked out Newcastle United as the only previously remaining undefeated side in the League.

Young who flicked it back to Mennillo to slam home.

Corry reflected after the match: "Having lost Naum Sekulovski and Robbie Stanton coming off with injuries then having David Huxley sent off, it was

through Marconi's defence).

"I'm worried about Marconi only.

"Alex, (Brosque), was outstanding again.

"With eleven on eleven it was always going to be a tough arm wrestle.

"The sending off changed things.

"Decisions, (referees'), change things. Goals change things.



By John Economos

sale at Club Marconi's Reception desk, Telephone 9823 2222.

SYDNEY UNITED has just appointed a new Media Liason Officer.

Ms Jodie Newell held the same position in the Latrobe Valley with Eastern Pride before joining a South Gippsland newspaper.

Having recently moved to Sydney, the nicely outspoken mannered Ms Newell was offered this position by United till the end of this season.

ADELAIDE CITY this Thursday is staging a Special Business Luncheon to welcome back former Scotland star John 'Dixie' Deans.

'Dixie' was brought out by Adelaide City in the late '70s as a guest player for Adelaide in the NSL.

The 'Dixie' Luncheon will be held at Ram Park on Fosters Road in Oakden with kick-off set down for 1.00pm.

Some tickets are left for sale costing \$30.00 each



Colo Colo's logo

which includes a sumptuous three course meal.

Phone booking can still be made through Jeff Widera on 08- 8334 8555.

.....



JODIE NEWELL: United's newly appointed Media Liason Officer.

LEE STERREY, Marconi's Head coach, was one of two special guest speakers last Friday night at the Leichhardt Tigers' splendid Fund-Raising Dinner for the Youth team's trip to this year's Viareggio Tournament. (see Page 16).



Addressing the Young Tiger players, Sterrey, himself a seasoned campaigner at Viareggio, having taken Marconi Youth teams to Italy for three consecutive Tournaments (1996,97, 98), advised them:

"You will find the very best of Youth opposition in that Tournament.

"The referees are nothing less than first class and don't miss a thing.

"All the Youth teams competing at Viareggio are top class and very technical."

Sterrey then made the startling admission:

"I learnt more about football in my three visits to Viareggio than I've learnt in five years in the NSL."

In 1997, Sterrey almost shocked the entire Viareggio Tournament when he came perilously close to defeating Manchester United's Youth team that was captained by current England World Cup defender, Phil Neville.

The hungry and aggressive Sterrey, quietly had cemented his heart on defeating the great Manchester United.

And he nearly did. Having meticulously planned to suffocate the great United by denying them space all over the pitch, seven minutes from half time Marconi stunned the crowd by drawing first blood.

Marconi's midfielder Mark Robertson from 25

metres, scored with a cracking low left footed screaming drive that flashed into the bottom left corner of the target.

United was stirred but not shaken.

Manchester in the second session bombarded Marconi but couldn't break down the Australians.

Two minutes into injury

The somewhat unkind suggestion was made that at least big 'John Wayne' should approach Marconi's major sponsor, Brescia Furniture, and put in an order for one of his reclining chairs so that the Big Fella could be more comfortable whilst sitting on the sidelines.

.....
MORE humour. Last Friday night at the



LEE STERREY (left): Marconi's 1997 Youth Team Coach seen here at the Viareggio Tournament with Manchester United's then captain, Phil Neville.

time, disaster struck Marconi.

A United cross fired in from the right was flicked into the target past Marconi's stringbean goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi, to frantically salvage a heart-stopping 1-1 draw for Manchester which broke the ambitious Sterrey's heart.

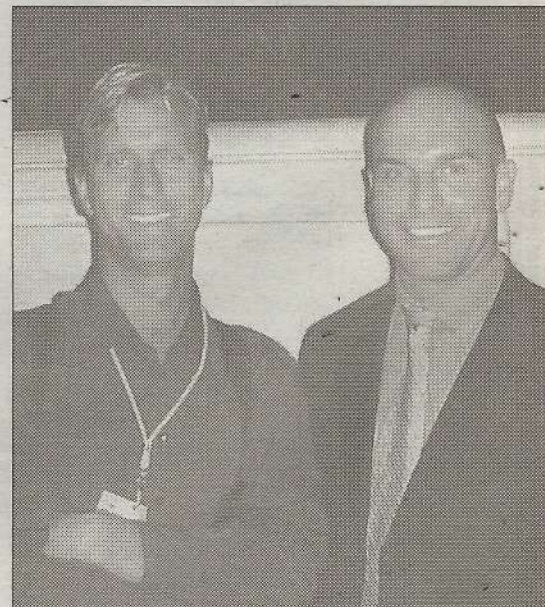
C-7 Soccer commentators Michael Cockerill and Andy Harper have been 'cutting up' Marconi's back-up

North Sydney Oval, a group of highly vocal supporters in the McCartney Stand before kick-off to the main game against the Parramatta Power, started chanting:

"Hickman Out, Hickman Out".

When the Spirit's Head coach Mickey Hickman came out onto the pitch, he zeroed straight over to the boisterous buggers and with an air- swinging clenched fist, yelled back:

"Come on, Come on,



MIKE COCKERILL and ANDY HARPER: Hurling bouncers on Bobby Catlin.

goalkeeper Bobby ('John Wayne') Catlin something awful on the box in recent weeks.

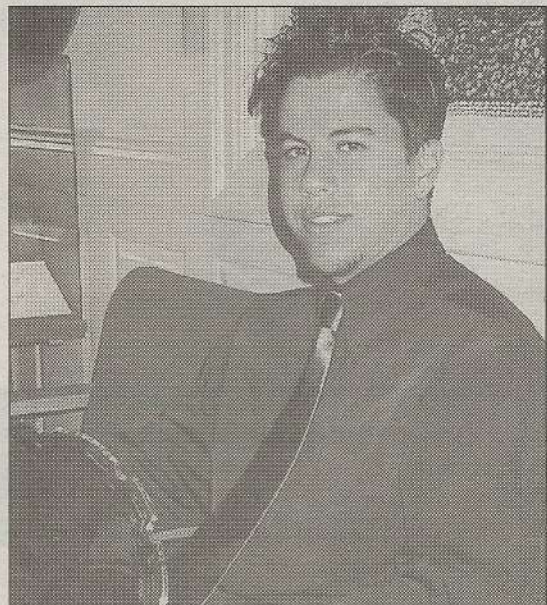
It again happened last Saturday night when they 'bounced' Catlin for spending so much time on the Marconi bench instead of being out on the pitch in the thick of the action.

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And guess what?

Not only did the boisterous buggers sink back into soft silence for the rest of the match, but 'Hickey' actually steamed ahead and won the game 1-0.

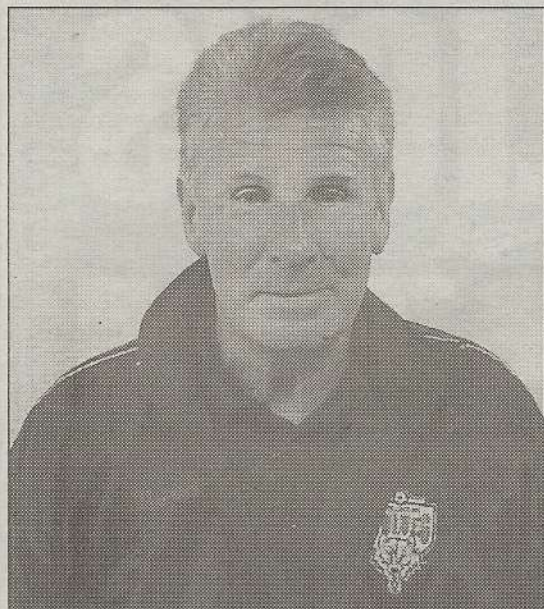
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IVO DE JESUS: Melbourne Knights' victorious goalscorer.

The Knights' 2-1 win over the visiting Novocastrians, enabled the Victorians to edge themselves back into the Top Six, just behind fifth placed Marconi who is ahead with a slightly better goal-difference.

RONNIE CORRY, Wollongong's Head coach, had mixed feelings after watching his side snatch a late 1-1 draw against Marconi last Saturday night at the Marconi Stadium.



RONNIE CORRY: Wollongong's unyielding League champion coach.

Facing almost certain defeat, trailing 1-0 late in the match and having his tough defensive midfielder David Huxley sent off in the 57th minute, things looked a bit grim for the hard taskmaster.

However with three minutes left on the clock, Wollongong's left flanker Dino Mennillo 'balanced the books' after a Marconi central defender slid in with an intended tackle on midfielder Paul Reid, but hit only hit air.

"They, (Marconi), weren't good enough to score two or three more," Corry ended.

LEE STERREY, Marconi's Head coach had much to say about Wollongong's late escape last Saturday night.

"Very disappointing with my team.

"With them a man down, it's 11 on 10.

"You shouldn't be able to get past people, (referring to Mennillo slicing

through Marconi's defence).

"I'm aware that these games in Australia will be very hard for our players.

"It would be great to play in front of the Chilean Community in Australia," commented snr Pizarro.

Colo Colo is expected to arrive in Sydney on Monday 4th February to play Marconi on Saturday 9th February.

Kick off for this exhibition match has been set down for 4:00 pm.

Match tickets are now on

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil



MICKEY HICKMAN: The Spirit's manager.

By John Economos

MARCONI on Saturday night take on the League leaders Perth Glory in their third consecutive home game at the Marconi Stadium.

Marconi coach Lee Sterrey, when questioned about any injuries to his players following their 1-1 draw last Saturday night against Wollongong Wolves, snapped back last night with: "Only our pride has been injured."

Sterrey was angered by Marconi failing to secure all three precious League points

against the depleted Wollongong Wolves.

"Look, the Glory is a great side with the League's best front-runners, (Despotovski and Mori).

"In our game in the first Round over in Perth, we were neck and neck till the last 10 minutes then we copped two goals from Mori and Despotovski in those last minutes," Sterrey reflected.

Then the Marconi coach went on to add: "I always said that the Perth Glory would win the League by 12 points.

"And I said that before the season kicked off, not just now."

"Nothing has happened

Marconi To Face League Leaders

for me to change that opinion.

"We must play at our very best on Saturday night to get

any points.

"This game will also tell us whether we can mix it with the big boys," ended

Sterrey.

Marconi could have central marker Mark Babic back from a hamstring injury,

whilst the robust striker Royce Brownlie who was out with snapped tendons, is expected back in action within three weeks.

Meanwhile Marconi's 18 year old marksman, Alex Brosque again had an excellent match last Saturday, whilst mobile midfielder John Maisano's top form continues.

Last Saturday night at Perth Oval the Glory was surprisingly held to a score-



By John Economos

less draw by South Melbourne.

The dynamic twin-striker force of Bobby Despotovski and Damian Mori, has yielded the Glory to date a massive 21 goals of the team's tally of 32.



JOHN MAISANO: Marconi's energetic and mobile midfielder.



JOYCE BROWNLIE: Marconi's robust striker expected back in action in three weeks.



Damian Mori: The Glory's and the League's leading goalscorer.

KNIGHTS WAIT FOR CANTONA'S CALL

By Bert van Bedaf

The Melbourne Knights are keeping their fingers crossed they still might snare former Manchester United captain Eric Cantona for a guest appearance during their derby against South Melbourne at Colonial Stadium on February 8.

So far, confusion has reigned in the Knights camp, while the club anxiously awaits the keenly anticipated telephone call from the Frenchman's agent as late as yesterday.

Knights general manager Robert Hrzic said, "It's not looking good. We have been waiting for his agent to call, but we haven't heard anything at all. We haven't dismissed the possibility, but there has not been a response to date."

Knights director Miro Mikrut, who contracted former England player Peter Beardley for two games last season, believed it was a matter of

being patient.

"I'm quietly confident. The same thing happened with Beardsley. These people don't like to be hassled. We're still waiting for a 'phone call."

I expect his agent to call this week," Mikrut said.

Nevertheless, the club realises time is running out. "It has to be this week. He has to be registered with Soccer Australia in time for the South Melbourne game," Mikrut said.

The Knights' main aim is to contract Cantona for the single match at Colonial stadium, which the club hopes will attract 40,000-plus spectators.

"It's up to Cantona, if he'd want to play a second game, either against Marconi in Sydney or against Perth in Tasmania," Mikrut said.

If the Cantona deal falls through, the Knights hope to attract another major overseas name for the Colonial derby. "Plan B is we'll look for a different guest player and see whether we can pick up the pieces," Hrzic said.

KNOP TAKES DIRECT W-CUP TICKET FIGHT TO BLATTER

Soccer Australia Chairman Mr. Ian Knop is in direct negotiations with FIFA President Mr. Sepp Blatter, in regards to automatic qualification for the Oceania Football Confederation to the 2006 FIFA World Cup and beyond.

Mr. Blatter, in recent correspondence with the SA Chairman and seeking to further enhance the good relationship existing between SA and FIFA, reiterated his personal stance that Oceania should have direct qualification and continued discussions on this topic are planned to take place in the next few weeks.

"My constant position has been that the current (Oceania qualification) situation is unfair and illogical and should be corrected as soon as possible", said Mr. Blatter.

Oceania is pushing to secure automatic qualification to the next World Cup in Germany, following the FIFA Executive Committee's decision to discontinue the

automatic qualification of the World Cup title-holder, freeing up one additional spot during the qualifying process.

Chairman Ian Knop is delighted to be advocating the position of Soccer Australia to the FIFA President, with a view to ending the four-yearly lottery that the Socceroos and other Oceania members face.

"The Board of Soccer Australia is determined to ensure that the Socceroos are given the best possible chance of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup, and what

better way to achieve this than to help Oceania negotiate for direct entry with the FIFA President," said Ian Knop.

"We are entering a World Cup year and again Australia and Oceania is not represented, and while it cannot be changed for 2002, we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to do what is best for us and the code in our region, in our discussions with Mr. Blatter."



IAN KNOP: Head of Soccer Australia.



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University of New South Wales is also seeking a senior level Goal Keeping Coach.

For more information please contact TROY COOK on 0412 069 068 or troy.cook@student.unsw.edu.au

National Soccer League

Marconi Stallions Wollongong Wolves

Resurgent Wollongong Wolves tenaciously fought back to score a valuable and defiant League point in their 1-1 draw against the Marconi Stallions at Marconi Stadium last Saturday night.

Dino Mennillo rescued the Wolves seven minutes before full time after they were forced to play with just ten men for most of the second half after defensive midfielder David Huxley was sent off in the 57th minute for a very crude two footed tackle on Marconi's goalscorer John Maisano.

Marconi had drawn first blood through Maisano in the 75th minute as midfielder Christian Care dispossessed central defender Alvin Ceccoli and quickly released Maisano who narrowly beat a square Wollongong defence, smashing



Dino Mennillo: Grabbed the vital equaliser for the Wolves.

from wide out the left past stranded 'keeper Dean Anastasiadis and into the far corner of the target.

Marconi failed to make the most of their numerical advantage despite creating at least half a dozen chances, but the defiant Wollongong stood up against all odds.

Stallions' Coach Lee Sterrey was very disappointed with his defence for allowing the Wolves far too much space on the ball.

"Wollongong scored a soft goal", he said, "The defence left Mennillo time on the ball and let him walk through by switching off and standing back. They have to be wrong in the head to do that".

While Marconi dominated possession for most of the game, Wollongong created the better chances on the break through-out the first session.

The best of these saw central midfielder Paul Reid force Marconi keeper Michael Turnbull into a fine save around the post.

Marconi started to control the game in the second half after Wolves lost Sekulovski (44th injured), Huxley (sent-off), and Robert Stanton also through

injury in the 66th minute.

However the home team failed to crack a resilient Wollongong defence.

While a lack of firepower up front yet again plagued the Stallions, much credit must be given to the Wolves' spirited fight back which culminated in a well-worked and deserved equaliser in the 83rd minute. Mennillo started it all and finished the exercise with a crisp move that involved Reid and intelligent marksman, Stuart Young.

Marconi might have grabbed a late winner as the hard working-teenage sensation Alex Brosque forced Anastasiadis into a fine low save, with Maisano hitting the rebound over.

The result leaves Marconi firmly in the Top Six, while the Wolves continue to make sustained amends following a very poor start to their title defence.



John Maisano: Marconi's midfielder.

Football Kingz Brisbane Strikers

Failings of old came back to haunt the Football Kingz on Friday night as they slumped to another home defeat in front of their disappointed Auckland fans.

It was again all-too-familiar story as the Kingz fought like trojans, but failed to make it make count where it mattered most - as winners.

On a night when ever-impressive Andy Vlahos marked his 150th NSL game, the Kingz lost 2-1 to the Brisbane Strikers at Ericsson Stadium despite going ahead in stunning fashion. The visitors however bounced back to erase the Kingz' lead and go one better with all the goals coming in the first of this thrilling encounter.

The match was played in pouring rain which made the surface slippery and made ball control very difficult.

Vlahos, roaming as always on the left flank, initiated several raids on the Brisbane defence and in the 4th minute almost opened scoring for the hosts, but saw a low shot cleared off the line.

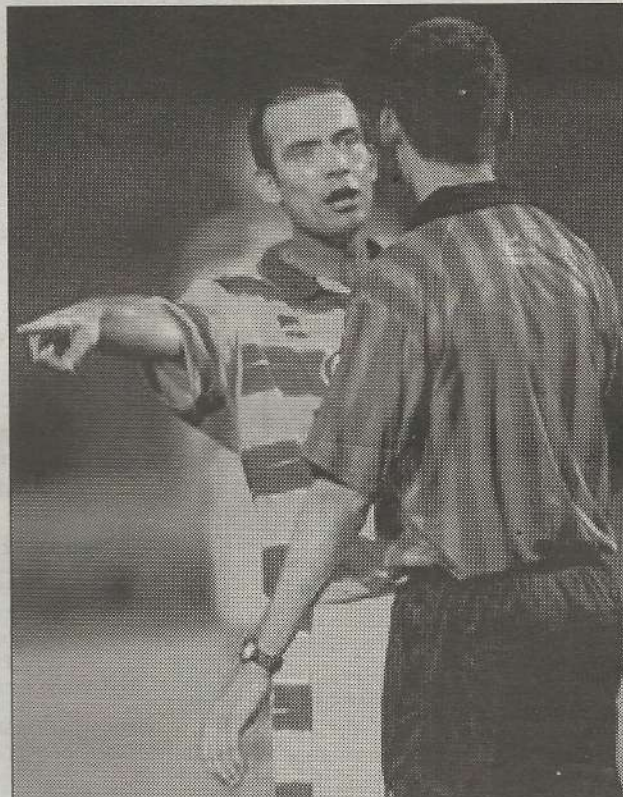
The Kingz played far better than the score indicated, in contrast to their desperate display against Olympic the previous week.

George Goutzioulis however made amends in the 8th minute when he buried his header past goalie Jason Kearton off a perfect Jonathan Perry cross.

The Kingz the begun using acres of space in the Brisbane defence and almost scored again four minutes later when Vlahos again broke on the left and Paul Urlovic's flick at a pre-

cise cross missed the post by inches.

As if a signal, Brisbane finally woke up from their slumber and started mesmerising their hosts with good touches. Paul Foster made the most of some hesitant defence to finally score a clean one-two in the 35th minute.



Man of Match, Brisbane Strikers' Paul Foster.

Rampaging John Carbone struck another blow for Brisbane, when he floated the ball behind four Kingz defenders, allowing Foster to score his second on the night.

Ineffective Paul Urlovic was pulled out due to what emerged as an injury at halftime. Chris Jackson missed a long range sit-

ter in the 55th minute and then Harry Ngata latched onto a Vlahos' cross, but missed target despite having an empty goal in front of him.

The kingz threw men forward in a desperate bid to draw level, but stellar defending from the visitors kept them at bay. In the 67th minute they deserved a penalty when a Brisbane defender used his upper arm to control the ball, but referee Derek Rugg ignored it and waved play on.

Late chances still fell to Brisbane but two good saves by Michael Theoklitos denied dan-

gerous Brisbane goalpoacher, Fernando Rech from doing further damage.

At the other end, John Markovski hit the bar with a speculative kick, but there was to be no last-minute rescue mission this time around as has been the case lately.

Northern Spirit Parramatta Power

By Mark Stavroulakis

Northern Spirit snatched a rare 1-0 victory at North Sydney Oval last Friday night against the Parramatta Power, and finally broke the home ground hoodoo.

It was the Spirit's second home win in almost sixteen matches, finally the curse was broken and the Spirit fans had something to sing about.

The first half saw very little entertaining football from both sides, both teams cautious of not making a mistake.

It was a case however, of the unconverted corner opportunities for the Power, who had many in the first half but simply could not finish.

The goal that stopped the drought for the Spirit came in the 41st minute through Adrian Cervinski. The lead up to the goal was exceptional as crowd favorite Pablo Cardozo's pin point cross fell straight to Cervinski, who in turn brought the ball down superbly to slot the ball beyond Pogliacomini, and gave the Spirit the all important lead minutes before the break.

However, tensions rose in the 44th when goal-scorer Cervinski was said to have deliberately elbowed ex-Socceroo captain Alex Tobin in an aerial challenge for the ball. A push and shove match erupted, with Cervinski and Power defender Dave Barrett the center of attention. Referee Matthew Breeze restored order and amazingly booked no one for the incident.

It was the Power who came out in the second half more determined to snare a result in North Sydney. Danger man Johnny

'Jockey' Buonavoglia always looked the threat for the Power, and was unlucky not to have scored as Spirit's defence remained rock solid.

Spirit had the chance to finish the game off mid-way through the second half when Pablo Cardozo released midfielder John Hutchinson, who only had Pogliacomini to beat. Instead of slotting the ball in the net, Hutchinson tried to round the Power custodian, the latter coming off best.

Soon after that miss, a Power counter attack started, Buonavoglia sent a brilliant pass to Steve Fitzsimmons feet, only to misguide his shot.

Chances fell thick and fast for the Power in the dying stages of

the match, but the away side simply could not finish. Spirit keeper Paul Henderson was called on several times to thwart a Power comeback, the overall result a clean sheet.

The best chance of the match for the Power came in the 75th minute when substitute and promising youngster Adam Kwasnik hit the post after sending Spirit keeper Paul Henderson the wrong way. Kwasnik was called into action twice more, but to the youngster's despair, could not get that elusive goal.

Just before the final whistle, the Spirit was given their first corner of the match, and through it nearly came a goal. Craig Foster's cross was missed by Pogliacomini, but was out of Spirit defender Julian Watt's reach, Breeze ended the match, much to the enjoyment of the very few Spirit fans who attended.

The win moved the Spirit a step closer to the Top 6, but more importantly for Hickman's men, the three points were won at home.



Zlatko Arambasic: His impressive showing couldn't secure victory for Power.

National Soccer League

Sydney United Olympic Sharks

By Tim Caimakamis

The Olympic Sharks returned to the winners list by comprehensively beating Sydney United 1-4 at the boutique Sydney United Sports Centre last Sunday.

A small crowd of 4,589 witnessed an entertaining match on in perfect conditions as Olympic put a severely depleted United to the sword in this Sydney derby match.

"Unfortunately for us, we had two late withdrawals just hours before kickoff, Ivan Zelic and Paul Bilokapic, and with Moric and Menapi suspended, Olic, Michael and Brendon Santalab amongst others injured, in total ten players short today", informed a circumspect Branco Culina.

"Sometimes you've got to take your chances and fortunately today it paid off", beamed Sharks mentor Gary Phillips.

"Obviously with getting beat last week there was a lot of pressure on us, and I said to the boys that Auckland were the worst team in the league and we just got beaten by them; you're only as good as your last game, that makes us the worst team".

Olympic had a dream start to the match when

in only the 1st minute, and from their first attempt on goal they scored.

Lindsay Wilson on the right played the ball forward for striker Greg Owens who, inside the box, crossed low for unmarked Jade North to tap in. The versatile North was used as a striker for this match due to the late withdrawal of Jeremy Harris as Phillips was desperate for a clinical finisher.

With many half chances in early and directed by the mercurial and talented Gabriel Mendez, United's best effort of the half came in the 33rd minute when Mendez supplied a through-ball out on the left for Christian Cevenini who flashed a shot across the face of goal.

Having survived United's bid for domination in the midfield battle, Olympic resumed the ascendancy late in the half.

In the 35th minute, a quick freekick by Nick Carle caught United scurrying 35 metres from goal and found North on the edge of the box, only to be tackled while the ball ballooned to teammate Owens, but his volleyed effort sailed high over the crossbar.

Maintaining the momentum, Olympic and North scored their second goal in the 39th minute to take a commanding 0-2 lead into the break.

With the ball on the edge of the box in front of goal, Troy Halpin flicked thru as Owen ran to the right, drawing the defence, North got to the ball first, cut in behind Owen to slot the ball home.

An action packed second half provided the crowd end-to-end football. Defending a corner in the 61st minute, Olympic counterattacked up their left wing as half time substitute Tom Pondeljak was set free and cut inside toward goal.

Having his first shot parried by the advancing keeper, he managed to reach the ball first to smash home the rebound from a tight angle for an unassailable 0-3 lead.

Shots on goal for Olympic by Kohler and substitute Zorbas in quick succession finally resulted in success when Wilson made a 30metre solo run from wide on the right. Reaching the 18 yard line, he cut inside and with precision he shot hard and low inside the far post to make it 4-0.

A consolation goal in the 84th minute for United was pure class.

A back-heel by Ante Milicic wide on the left enabled substitute Zeljko Kopic to run free towards goal, and from the corner of the box he curled the ball over the diving Clint Bolton into the top corner of the far post for a final scoreline of 1-4.

"At certain times we've done that (dominate) all year and failed to take our chances, today is one of those days that everything went in for us, that's football," said Phillips.

As for North's selection as striker, "technically he's good, he's great in the air, he's mobile, and he knows where the net."



Troy Halpin of the Olympic Sharks (left) fights for the ball with Zeljko Kopic of Sydney United.

Melbourne Knights Newcastle United

By Bert van Bedaf

The crowd moved from scathing to rapturous as the Melbourne Knights came from behind to beat Newcastle United 2-1 for only their second win at Knights stadium this season last Sunday.

The indomitable Knights captain-coach Andrew Marth and recently-signed striker Ivo de Jesus grabbed the full points after Robbie Middleby had given Newcastle the lead after the break.

Victory catapulted the Knights back into the top six, while defeat pushed United down to third place on the National Soccer League table.

Marth was obviously relieved his team had cracked it for a home win after losing 1-0 to Parramatta last week.

"When we were one-nil down, I thought here we go again, but credit to the boys we battled on and got a couple of goals," Marth said.

The Knights coach could not believe his luck, heading home the equaliser.

"I was surprised I found myself free. I thought I was off-side. It was great vision of

Joel (Porter) to find me and I knew I could not miss from there," Marth said.

De Jesus, striking his second goal for the Knights, was pleased to have landed the winner.

"It's always good to get a goal, but especially when it is the winner," the Knights striker said.

Newcastle coach Ian Crook accepted his side's first defeat with grace, giving credit to the Knights for the way they fought out the contest.

"It is obviously disappointing to lose, but the game is for 90 minutes and full credit to the Knights they stuck to it to the end," Crook said.

"I thought we might get something out of the game at the end, but we didn't. We worked hard and we were still going forward until the end. But it was one of those days.

"We need to look at the bigger picture," he put the loss in perspective.

A Knights free-kick flew wide after ten minutes and Marth struck a photographer with a wayward shot from long range four minutes later.

Strikers Joel Griffiths and Esala Masi had minor sniffs for Newcastle before the visi-

tors were handed the best scoring opportunity in the 39th minute.

Rody Vargas cleared poorly with a header, leaving Scott Baillie with a shot on goal from just outside the area that wingback Ivan Jolic cleared off the line.

At the other end, Joel Porter almost chipped United 'keeper Daniel Beltrame three minutes from the break, but his attempt went over the bar.

Newcastle took the lead four minutes into the second half.

After a powerful run, Middleby laid the ball off for Joel Griffiths, who had a shot on goal.

Knights 'keeper Martin John only partially cleared and Middleby seized the chance, poking the ball underneath John.

Unfortunately, he injured himself in the process and left the ground for substitute Travis Dodd in the 52nd minute.

Masi nearly extended United's lead with a low shot from the right, but John stretched and pushed the ball past the far post.

Marth again showed his immense value to the Knights with an emphatic equaliser in the 61st minute.

Hard-working Porter provided the cross in the box, where Marth headed home to breathe new life in the Knights game.

Griffith could have snuffed out the home revival only a minute later, but John blocked his shot and the subsequent corner was cleared.

Marth also began the move that led to the winning goal, pushing the ball wide to the



Melbourne Knights' striker Joel Porter (right), desperately chases Newcastle United's Milan Blagojevic.

right to a free-standing Teto Da Costa.

The skilful forward eluded a defender and slotted the ball past Beltrame, giving De Jesus a tap-in on the run to crack the winner with a minute left of normal time.

Newcastle mounted a series of valiant

attacks in the four minutes of time added on, but the home side defended desperately and clung to its precious victory that went a long way towards restoring some of its former fearful home reputation.

Perth Glory South Melbourne

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory are still benefiting from a healthy position at the head of the NSL standings despite being forced to accept a share of the points with league doormats South Melbourne at Perth Oval.

The 0-0 draw can quite easily be deemed a victory for the struggling defending minor-premiers after having taken points from the league leaders in the west.

Their coach Eddie Krncevic believes the side's confidence would have been boosted by the result and can now start to move away from the foot of the ladder.

South did however, produce the biggest shock of the day with the late-late signing and first-eleven appearance of former Glory midfielder Con Boutsianis who hadn't played since last season's grand final with South Melbourne.

His transfer from the Kingz was approved the afternoon of the match by Soccer Australia but the New Zealand club apparently agreed to allow the talented centreman to return to the Victorian side on the proviso he doesn't play against them next Sunday at Bob Jane Stadium.

"It was something I wanted to keep quiet in case it didn't come off," said Krncevic.

"I would have put him on with one leg," Krncevic said when asked if it was a gamble to throw Boutsianis straight into the first eleven. "Con showed his class out there today even though it's obvious he was missing match practice."

The South Melbourne boss can be equally proud of season newcomers Massimo Murodca in midfield and teenage defender Vince Lia; both of who performed with the enthusiasm and the maturity of seasoned campaigners.

"I've got nothing but praise for 16-year old Vince Lia who did quite a good job on Matty (Horsley)," said Krncevic.

"Tactically, we played an excellent game," he ended. The last time Perth Glory played out a 0-0 result was in October 1999 against Adelaide City Force, while the last time they were held scoreless was in April last season on Anzac Wednesday, when Parramatta Power won 1-0 in Round 29, again at Perth Oval.

"It was very clear tonight why this team has only conceded 13 goals in 13 games," said a disappointed Glory coach Mich d'Avray.

"They defended well in numbers but unless you break them

down it was always going to be difficult."

"I was disappointed with the first half performance where we didn't get close to them or tight enough but to be fair we picked it up after the break and they never really troubled us."

"Their 'keeper made two very good saves, one particularly in the second half from Bobby (Despotovski) would have beaten nine out of ten goalkeepers."

"I'm frustrated for everyone, because nobody wants to watch a nil-nil draw but that's reality, it happens sometimes," d'Avray said.

"Everyone is in the change-rooms was disappointed because we wanted to win every home game," said Glory match skipper Scott Miller. "But to South's credit they defended very well and we weren't good enough to break them down."

The media has for so long been raving about Glory's dynamic frontline duo of Damian Mori and Bobby Despotovski but the side has a similar effective double combination in twin tower defenders Craig Deans and Jamie Harnwell; both of whom snuffed out the majority of the visitors raids on goal.

It was clear however, South Melbourne desperately require someone to find the net with regularity, as their seven goals in thirteen matches can testify.

Lone forward Peter Buljan toiled hard all day but found Deans, Harnwell and at times Shane Pryce too difficult to penetrate.

The only real opening the former Glory striker had was in the eighth minute when he shot straight at Jason Petkovic after beating Perth's offside trap.

The visitor's only other chance for the half was in the 29th

minute when defender

Patrick Kisorbo received a cleared corner on the face of the box but Despotovski was in the perfect place to block his shot.

At the other end, Despotovski brought the best out of Michael Petkovic after 72 minutes with a fierce rising tight-angled strike that required tipping over.

Two minutes into second-half stoppage time, Mori very nearly stole the game for the home side after Despotovski lined up the leagues leading netbuster to shoot, but Petkovic needed to stretch full-length to his left to swallow up Mori's accurate groundstrike.



Con Boutsianis: Made a surprise comeback appearance for South.

Sasho Petrovski

Viborg's Aussie Viking

By Mark Stavroulakis

Former Wollongong Wolves' star Sasho Petrovski is living a life long-dream, playing overseas football.

Currently playing in the Danish First Division for Viborg FF, the 26-year-old has made an enormous impact on the side tipped to challenge a spot in the UEFA Cup competition next year.

Sasho's renowned skill for having a lethal eye for goal is enjoying his stay in the Scandinavian country, having a good record of playing thirteen games and bagging six goals.

"I've been really happy with my performance at the club, scoring goals is what I do best, hopefully with the form I'm on at the moment, more goals are sure to come in the new-year," said the former Wolves star.

The 26-year-old made his debut for the club against Silkeborg back in September. Coming on as a substitute in the second half, the Aussie dazzled the opposition and even got on the score sheet, Viborg ended up winning the match 2-0.

"It was a dream start for me, coming on and scoring was what I wanted to do. The club was having a few problems in winning and scoring prior to the match, so it was good to change the fortunes of the side. I was happy enough to have helped the side take all three points, but more importantly, I showed the club and supporters that I could score goals," said the jubilant debutant.

Having signed a three-year deal with the Danish club, Sash believes that this is just a stepping-stone towards bigger and better things in his career.

"Playing professionally overseas is what I've always wanted to do. Playing soccer every-day of the week is something I thrive on, Viborg have given me the chance to showcase my skills to the rest of Europe.

I've been at the club for three months now and I've never looked back, the whole club and town have supported my family and me in a big way.

The club itself is going through a transition period at the moment, we are currently in eighth spot and still have a number of matches left, our aim this year is to gain a spot in the UEFA Cup," said the Viborg Striker.

Being one of only two for-

eigners in the side, Sash has had a few problems adjusting to his new lifestyle. "As in any country in Europe, apart from England, being able to learn their particular language is always a challenge.

Apart from myself, there is also a Polish player in the squad, funnily enough we are the only non-Danish players in the squad. The good thing about Denmark is everyone knows how to speak English, therefore communication is possible, it's not the best but I understand it enough to communicate back.

The country itself is beautiful, it's not like home, but the amount of greenery you see there is amazing. The cold climate is something I have to get used to coming from a hot climate like Australia, but I'm slowly adapting to the cold and cool lifestyle," said the number 11.

The Danish League known as the SAS Superligaen is unknown to most of us here in Australia. The league consists of 12 teams, each team playing each other three times.

The strongest clubs in Denmark are FC Copenhagen and Brøndby, both having

extensive European experiences. The league itself however, is very tough and physical and is by no means a weak competition.

"At first I thought the Danish league would be an average standard of football, nothing too flashy.

I was mistaken, the game itself is fast, tough and mentally physical on and off the park. It reminds me of the English Premier League, the game is played at high speeds, end to end action.

The clubs heavily rely on more experienced players rather than their youth. At Viborg, I am one of the youngest players in the squad, our average age would be 29-30, something we would find hard to believe in Australia.

Overall, it's a league that is full of potential, and it's shown through its success' at international level, and the amount of good quality Danish players making their names across Europe," said Sash.

Away from Denmark, Sash still keeps an eye on how the National League is running through the use of the Internet.

"The National League will always be apart of me. It was



Sasho Petrovski: "I've been really happy with my people at the club."

the league that gave me my chance, I'm surprised at the way its been going this year. Having the two finalists in last year's grand final make up the

bottom half of the league this year is unbelievable, I would not have imagined that at all," said Sasho.

The Wolves have found it tough to backup from two Championships, having lost so many key players, like Sasho, it's been more of a rebuilding process down at the 'Gong'.

Gone are the days of Matty Horsely's dynamic runs, Chipperfield's pace in beating opponents and Petrovski's striking partnership with Stuart Young. It's a new setup down the South Coast, with many promising youngsters staking their claim as being the next stars of Wollongong.

Having come home for the Christmas break, Sasho took the time in visiting mates and family and also watched a few matches in the National League.

"It's great to be back home, especially seeing my family and friends. Australia is the best place in the world, I wouldn't be anywhere else. Being away from your country is the hardest thing anyone could do, luckily I've had the support of my wife Karolina and my daughter Anastasia who have been with me every step of the way. I'd also like to say a big thank you to the supporters, friends and my family who helped me along the way as well," said the Viborg star.

Australia's failure in qualifying for the World Cup was

Sasho's biggest disappointment, as in the striker's eyes, it was the best chance in improving Soccer in this country.

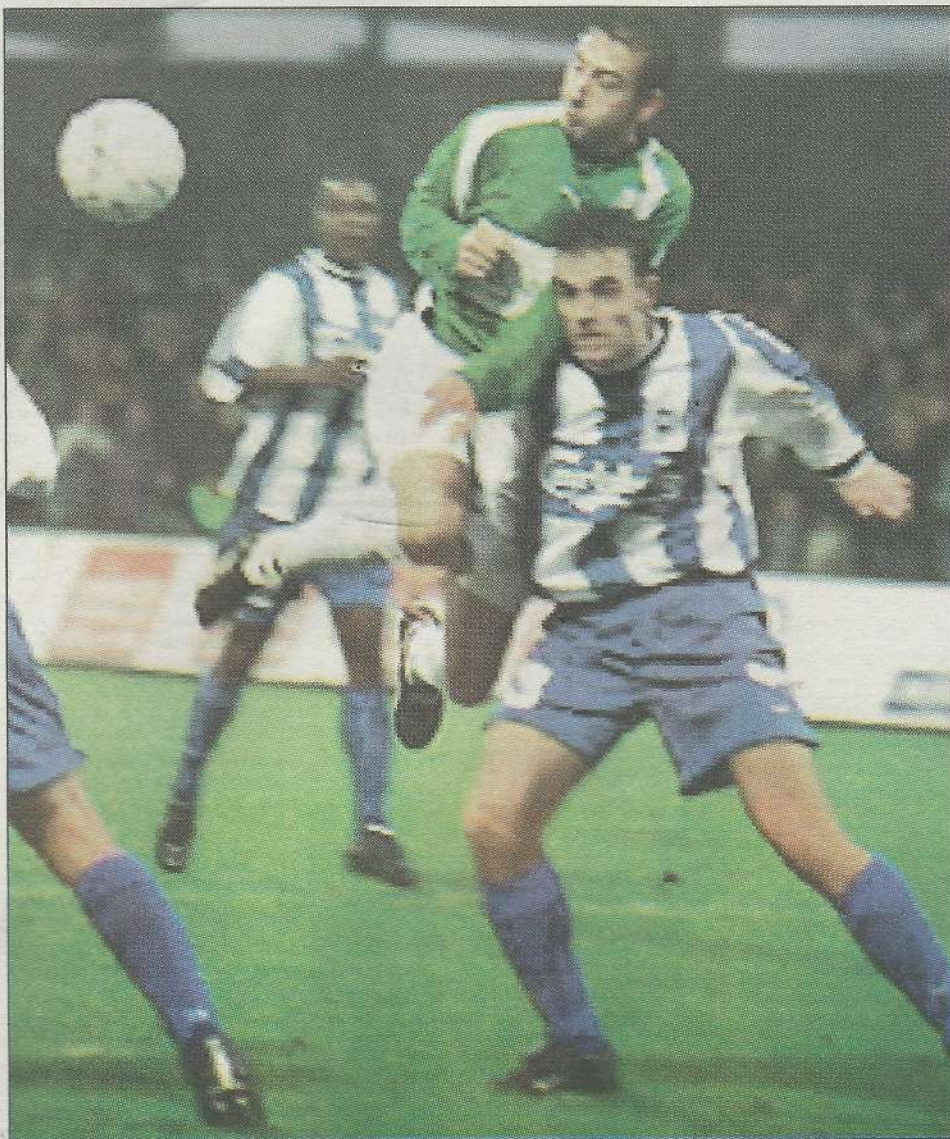
"I was devastated once I heard the news of Australia's loss to Uruguay. I couldn't believe it, had we qualified, it would have put soccer on the map in Australia, but it was not to be.

Putting on the green and gold jersey for the first time in a clash against Japan in a friendly was the highlight of my career.

Having had a great start to my international career in Denmark, my chances of making the World Cup squad, had we qualified, would have been better. It did not happen, now we must rebuild for the future, hopefully I can be apart of the next campaign for 2006," said Petrovski.

The second half of the Danish season kicks off in March, Viborg are scheduled to leave for Tenerife (Spain) in February for pre-season. Sasho currently sits equal top scorer for Viborg on six goals, his main aim is to become the top scorer in Denmark.

"I would love to capture a title such as that, especially in my first year. Being top scorer anywhere in Europe is a trophy itself. I can't wait to hit the fields this year, and hopefully the goal scoring continues right through the new season," ended Petrovski.



Petrovski: In the thick of action for Viborg in the just-ended Norwegian season.

Wollongong Back On Track

By John Economos

WOLLONGONG WOLVES, the League champions for the past two years,



Ron Corry: Manager of Wollongong Wolves.

appear to be back on track to make their belated raid into the Top Six to retain their title.

This Friday night the League Champions will be back at home, (WIN Stadium), where they'll clash with David Mitchell's Parramatta Power.

Wollongong came back from being a goal down to grab a 1-1 draw against Marconi whilst the Power lost 1-0 last Friday night to the Northern Spirit.

Left flanker Dino Mennillo was Wollongong's saviour last Saturday scoring the life-saving equaliser, leaving the Champions without loss in their last three outings.

Wollongong having kicked off the defence of their title in a disastrous

fashion in the first half of the League, seem certain that they've turned the corner, snaring seven League points from their last three games.



Dino Mennillo: Wollongong's Life-Saving left flanker.

Is Ronnie Corry's Wollongong squad about to flex its defiant, resilient pedigree and do a 'Manchester United' with a late charge to the winning post?

Last Saturday in their away clash to Marconi, the Wolves after having fallen behind to a John Maisano goal and having lost three of their starting XI to injuries and a Red card (David Huxley), defiantly fought back to snatch a gallant 1-1 scoreline.

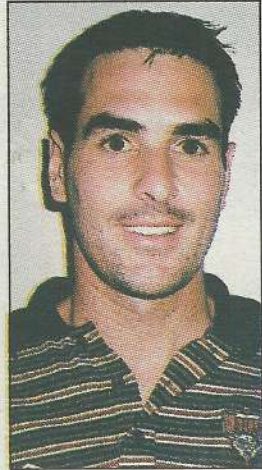
In assessing the Parramatta Power, Head coach Ronnie Corry stated to ABSW: "I watched them against the Northern Spirit last Friday night and they played well but failed to score."

"That was a hard game,

but so will be Friday night's game.

"It's a Do or Die situation for us and David Mitchell's team," Corry reasoned.

"We are determined to



Robbie Stanton: Wollongong's sweeper in doubt.

make the Top Six, and if we do, we'll give everyone in it a hurry up," ended Corry.

The Wolves will be without defensive midfielder David Huxley, out serving suspension, having been sent off in the 57th minute in the hard fought clash against Marconi.

It's almost certain that the Wolves could also be without their experienced sweeper, Robbie Stanton who hobbled off in the 66th minute on Saturday with a strained hamstring.

Even more probable will be the fact Corry will be without his talented striker Naum Sekulovski who came off a minute before the break against Marconi with a damaged ankle.

The Wolves have climbed to ninth spot, hav-

ing scored 14 goals and conceding 22, whilst the Power is in seventh position with an even 15 goals for, as well as against.



David Mitchell: Manager of Parramatta Power.

Leichhardt Tigers' — JOE BRUNI

JOEY BRUNI, the Leichhardt Tigers' mobile and ball-playing left midfielder, could have considered himself a trifle unlucky not to have established himself in the NSL.

Five seasons ago, the 25 year old Bruni briefly broke into Marconi's NSL squad in the one season Frank Farina was Head coach.

Having come up through Marconi's Reserve team, Bruni was full of confidence and ability and hoped he would become an established member in Marconi's NSL squad.

In a Cup match against the Brisbane Strikers, Farina brought on the then teenager off the bench. Bruni full of hunger and confidence, twice burst through the Queenslanders to promptly score two goals which ultimately gave Marconi a very precious 0-2 win.

Gifted with an explosive acceleration, cheeky and endowed with close ball-skills, today Bruni finds himself in the NSW Premier League with Club side Leichhardt Tigers.

ABSW: How would you describe yourself as a player?

J.B: I just love running at



Joey Bruni going through his drills in training: "I love running at players and creating goals".



By Daniela Raco

players and creating goals.

ABSW: From what age have you been playing this great game?

J.B: At the age of eight I began playing for Liverpool Albion, moving onto Southern District, before progressing to Sydney United, followed by the Marconi Reserve and then the NSL side.

PROFILE

Current Team?

Leichhardt Tigers

Previous clubs?

Marconi, Sydney United

Date of Birth?

08/11/1976

Birth Place?

Green Valley, Sydney

Nickname? 'Jupe'

Playing Position?

Left-midfield.

ABSW: Which League do you rate as the world's best?

J.B: The Italian League is the benchmark of quality Soccer.

ABSW: Is there a Soccer player that you model your game on?

J.B: Luis Figo.

ABSW: Who would you trade places with for a day?

J.B: Francesco Totti.

ABSW: What are the qualities of a good coach?

J.B: To motivate each and every player; to have respect and experience; and to be able to bring out the best in each individual.

ABSW: Your greatest moment in Soccer?

J.B: Scoring two goals in my

NSL debut. It was a Cup match against Brisbane Strikers, and I came off the bench in the 70th minute. Marconi won the game 0-2.

ABSW: What is your ambition for 2002?

J.B: To be in 100% physical condition, and win the League with Leichhardt.

ABSW: Most talented player in the world?

J.B: Christian Care (my best friend).

ABSW: If you could travel back in time, where would you go?

J.B: Go to Italy at the age of sixteen, and trial at every club until I made it.

ABSW: What is the best ingredient for a good night out?

J.B: Being with the right people.

ABSW: Best hangover cure?

J.B: Lots of water, and a lot of bread.

ABSW: Off-field pastimes?

J.B: Playstation 2 at Christian Care's house, fishing, and spear fishing.

ABSW: If you could have any supernatural power, what would it be?

J.B: To see through the cards at the casino.

ABSW: If you could choose any actor to play you in a movie, who would it be?

J.B: Robert DeNiro.

ABSW: Who or what inspires you?

J.B: My Dad is supportive and positive.

ABSW: What animal, (or thing), best describes your personality?

J.B: A Tiger—they always come out on top.

ABSW: Do you have any bad habits?

J.B: Very Indecisive.

ABSW: Do you have a favourite meal?

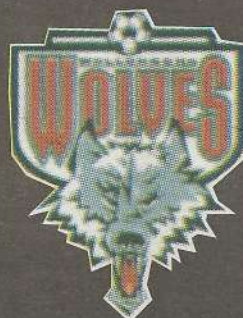
J.B: Chicken Schnitzel

ABSW: Favourite holiday destination?

J.B: Florence (North Italy).

ABSW: How would you spend your last \$50?

J.B: Go to the casino and double it on the blackjack.



Leaps ahead

Wollongong Wolves versus Parramatta Power



Friday January 18 at WIN Stadium, kick off 7:30pm

Youth Game kick off at 4.30pm,

gates open at 4.00pm

After match presentation at Wests Illawarra at 10.15pm

Wests
Illawarra

Southcoast
GRAPHICS PRINTERS

WIN
TELEVISION

i98
FM

Letters to the Editor

World Cup Debacle: Questions Arising

Dear Sir,

Concerning Soccer Australia, it would be a good idea — if in the future they stage their International matches, in Japan! Please do think it over. It is 10hrs of flying — with JAL — from Paris. And the European coaches may release more promptly our players, as it is not so far!

From Sydney is 8hrs of flying; and from both ends there are no jet lags! Without mentioning, that maybe cheaper. For the Internationals of the two Americans; a similar set up is advised somewhere in Africa. Hopefully with the gate takings, we will have a minimum 60-80% of the share.

To have more players with International experiences, in addition to Japan & African schemes; let's play NSL or any State selections, against the not too far situated Asian

countries! And why not?

Mr Knop, do pardon me, but why did you rush the National Coaching position? You are making the same mistake, as your predecessor; at that level of coaching Mr Farina is still — and will be, for years to come — an unknown rookie! Or under which metamorphosis, do you expect that Mr F. will undergo; and suddenly he will be a super wise coach, and will do a successful job?

Perhaps, do you have a magic wand? Why do you believe that in your coaching position, the cheaper is the better? Or without serious technical and philosophical etc knowledge's, anybody will do?

Or how do you explain China's qualification to the WC? In Bora Milutinovic China was a very highly qualified coordinator!

3. Farina did not react at all — in 270 minutes of play

— to the very fact; that Emerton, Viduka, Kewell etc, were marked out of the game. He even did not tried — (as a last measure of despair) — to change them; that maybe the reserve players would have done better. he just stood there mesmerised, without any reaction and lethargically absorbed all the "punches!" I hope, he was sorry after, that he did not select a few seasoned players! (From Horsley, Foxe, Mori, Zelic, Marusic, Markovski, etc), whom can protect and pass the ball under pressure.

4. Ask Mr Labbozzetta, why Mr F. — this is how I remember it — was dismissed after one year, as coach, from Marconi? Brisbane does not count in his pedigree as coach,

because there he could not wrong! He inherited a few old established players as Hunter & Brown, Phillips etc & Co, and the "young lions" Bolton, Shroj, Harris, North.

5. Why do you not follow the trend of Mr Hill? After Venables, try on Hodgson, Bora Milutinovic etc, or look around — abroad in the market? Players whom are playmakers, or with Soccer brains, who react immediately to the game, and read it. Usually they turn out as good coaches.

Example Postecoglou, Arnold Players who get the ball down, put their head down, and are running down the lines as Slater & Farina used to do. Usually they turn out as no good coaches!

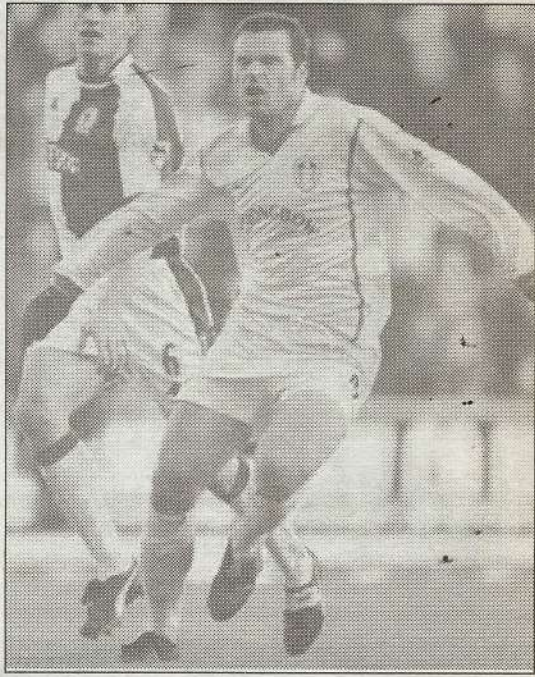
Because they do not think, or react to the game. They do



not know how. Take their imaginations as for the reality. That's the reason why no team changes were made before the game, in Montevideo! In his mind everything was perfect! In his mind, we supposed to hold out for a 0-0 draw.

Thank you in advance.

R. Marton,
Manly, QLD.



Mark Viduka: Seen here with a pair of gloves in a recent game against Blackburn Rovers.

AN ADVICE FOR FREEZING STARS

Dear Sir,

I was talking to a very good friend of mine on the phone on Christmas day morning.

He lives in Queensland and the talk got round to Soccer and we both can't understand why some players are trying to turn the game into a "CISSY'S GAME" by wearing gloves while playing.

If Kewell, Viduka, Beckham, Bowyer and a few of the players at Arsenal, just put on a touch of make up and hand bag each, they would not look out of place in the mardi gras parade in Sydney.

My friend and I played against each other

when we were at school back in the north of England.

We also played against each other when we were both working, we played in rain, snow, slush and a howling wind and nothing under our shint and the old lace-up ball which hurt a bit if one headed it.

The lace left a mark on the forehead. We did not worry about that, we just got an playing. Soccer is a winter sport. So if the above-named players don't like the cold weather then get out of the fridge.

D. Gardner,
Hampton Park, VIC.

HOME-BASED PLAYERS HOLD THE KEY

Dear Sir,

Hello Aussie Soccer Fans, have faith and keep praying; the road is long and hard but believe it or not we are stumbling forward.

On the World Cup qualifier its no wonder why we lost, the first time we saw Kewell, Viduka and Agostino playing in our current Socceroos as a unit was against France, one week before our qualifier against Uruguay.

Great teams need time together to develop a great understanding within the team, this is what Australia lacked.

I never thought I would say this but an Australian-based Socceroos might be the way to go, where the team can play 15-20 games together and develop that understanding.

If players can't commit to 15-20 games when we simply don't use them. It's no use turning up for the last two qualifiers and expect to perform miracles.

I believe that the Oceania winners should qualify directly. Lets face it the 32 teams that go to the World Cup are not the 32 best teams in the world, they are the 32 best teams from FIFA's Confederations there is a big difference.

For example Holland have missed out because they were in a hard group, but Holland could probably beat most of the teams at the 2002 World Cup and with a little luck could probably win the World Cup if they were the 32 best teams in the world that qualified then you would have an argument and you could say sorry you're not good enough but the fact of the matter is they are not the 32 best nations in the world, they are the 32 best nations from FIFA's Confederations.

Once again our Confederation (Oceania) has no representative at the World Cup this is wrong and unfair, once again we have been mistreated it's time we said something, the World Cup is basically a promotion of the planets biggest participating sport so why aren't we Oceania allowed to be represented.

How are we to promote the game in our region and allow us to dream of winning the greatest sporting trophy on the planet if we are not allowed to represent our region (Oceania).



Damian Mori: One of the many capable NSL players worthy of national.

All confederations of the FIFA family should be represented at the World Cup. If we don't make it pass the first round it doesn't matter for we will be one of many nations that won't make it pass the first round, what is important is that Oceania will be represented which will give us a nation from our region that we can support.

If the World Cup qualifiers can capture the imagination of a nation and the NSL clubs struggle to do the same, maybe we should be looking to promote some of that great state rivalry we have in this country to capture the imagination of the Australian public.

I believe with the right marketing people will come out and support their state, even if they don't support any of the NSL clubs this would have a broader appeal much the same way the Socceroos have.

There is no reason why we couldn't fill out the Colonial Stadium when VIC v WA or Stadium Australia when NSW v QLD.

Lets not wait four years to get excited again lets make it happen now. This stuff is too good to only eat it every four years, give us more big games where we can exercise our national passion for our football team the Socceroos. Here's an idea bring out the Poms for some games, we play them in everything else why not football, I bet games like this can fill Soccer Australia's pockets.

Go Aussie!

Paul Bottari,
Yokine, WA.

PROS & CONS OF DIRECT WORLD CUP ROUTE

Dear Sir,

There are arguments raging around the country whether getting a direct route from Oceania to the World Cup finals is better than qualifying through an Asian Zone of group matches in a Round Robin home and away system.

There are obvious benefits for a direct path from Oceania as we all know, but for mine they are heavily outweighed by a lot of disadvantages.

For starters, if we got a direct path to the finals it would further alienate the locally based players from the overseas-based players, who will be asked to play the donkey games even more, while the big name star players will get all the glory games in the finals in Germany.

Soccer Australia would not hire a senior coach for four years (only use a caretaker), but only for the last 12 months after we qualified against NZ just to save money.

The so called stars would then take over with only a few preparation games in European countries before the finals.

That of course means Australian fans back home won't get see our top star studded side in action at all in future, or very little. If that happens then the kids will have no stars or heroes to look up to and follow, if they never see them in person.

There are other issues such as being underdone and humiliated in the finals itself, if Soccer Australia is happy just to get there, but doesn't take a long term view of eventually trying to challenge for the Cup itself, or at

least make the semi-finals.

The benefits do not outweigh these problems, as a guaranteed \$12 million is cut in half after player payments for making the finals, which leaves \$6 million only to cover for the loss of that one big game at home every four years.

If that one big game at home is marketed and sold properly in Sydney not Melbourne, then up to a net profit of \$6 million can be made on that game alone so where is the big benefit financially with a virtual free pass to the finals.

Sure corporate and sponsorship will come into the game, but how much would it really be in dollars.

If you believe the 25 to 30 million dollars bandied about in the local media prior to our downfall you would have to believe in the tooth fairy as well.

I know Basil Scarcella wants to keep his job and help the Oceania regions smaller Island countries as well, but there is a better way of doing it without giving us a free pass every four years.

If FIFA wants to keep six confederations, I favour an East Asia Pacific Confederation separate from West Asia instead of a weak Oceania Confederation that was created only to make up the numbers in 1997 to suit FIFA's other money making meaningless competitions.

But more on the two big separate Asian Confederations in my next letter.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, QLD.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

SHOW ME THE MONEY

Can you hear the sounds of thundering chooves and clanging steel renting the night air? Hang loose, it's a brigade of White Knights astride their thoroughbred steeds charging to save Australian soccer from extinction.

As we are well aware, soccer football down under is currently way down under, or if you prefer, has been fiscally challenged, because of the failure of the Socceroos to qualify for the World Cup finals.

Like all struggling businesses, Soccer Australia probably expected to receive some takeover bids for its National Soccer League.

According to reports from varying quarters, plans to form a new 12-team "Super League," are in the advanced stages, having been stewing in the pot for nine months.

This proposed rescue package (or takeover attempt) is reportedly backed by a masked American oil magnate, who is prepared to pour \$70 million into the scheme.

The 12 teams would comprise five from New South Wales, two Victorian, one each from Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and the ACT, while the 12th spot would be allocated to either an Asian team or one from New Zealand.

The clubs would operate on a \$3 million budget supplied by the "Super League" management, thereby using over half of the initial \$70 million cash box.

Soccer Australia ridiculed the reports, declaring any proposals regarding a sale of the NSL should be made to the governing body.

Several influential and highly respected citizens were mentioned as being aware of the new broom plan.

If former Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett, media magnate John Singleton and rugby league club Melbourne Storm executive director John Ribot are involved, they sure-

ly would be aware that any proposals would need to be made through the correct channels to avoid reprisals from FIFA.

Changes of any description are invariably opposed by the people in control, but change is sometimes essential.

Australian Soccer supporters have had a gut-full of administrative power struggles. The time has come for level-headed discussion between all parties. Confrontation must be replaced by conciliation.

Perth Glory cannot be expected to continue forever as the NSL's crowd-drawing lone ranger. Who knows? Those "White Knights" just might have some worth while propositions tucked away in their saddlebags.

YEN FOR SA SOCCER

Speculation also is rife that Father Christmas and the Easter Bunny are about to combine their resources to unveil a new club in Adelaide.

SA web site <http://www.soccernews.com.au> revealed last week that a Japanese multi-millionaire businessman is keen to form this new team.

The story goes that the gentleman recently watched an Adelaide City Force game at Hindmarsh Stadium, was greatly impressed by the facility, but was disappointed by the small crowd and the subsequent lack of atmosphere.

The aforementioned visitor had during last September been among the record crowd at Hindmarsh Stadium for the Olympic Games quarter-final between Japan and the USA and was suitably thrilled by everything except the penalty shoot-out win by the USA.

The mystery businessman reportedly has relatives residing in an Adelaide suburb and reportedly owns two properties there.

The story extends with the revelation that he has contacted a real estate agent and the Adelaide City Council regarding the possible purchase of land for use as a training centre.

He also is said to be hoping to include at least four Japanese players in his proposed team.

Mention also was reportedly made by the visitor that he has some names pencilled in as probable working titles for his team - "Adelaide Storm, Southern Stars and Adelaide Stingrays."

The web site then trumpets, "You heard it first here at 'Soccer News South Australia.'"

The author then proceeds to pour a huge bucket on the "Scoop" by ending with - "Whether this is true or not, time will tell."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The decorations are being hung in preparation for the South Australian Soccer Federation's 100th Birthday this year. The Centenary celebrations will kick-off with a rematch of the first interstate game that was played in Adelaide between the SA State team and Western Australia.

Saturday, March 9 is the date set for the commemorative game and the interstate fare will continue with SA playing NSW on May 18 before taking on Queensland on June 10.

SA made a glorious start to its soccer history by beating WA 5-1 at the Adelaide Oval on April 24, 1905.

On the following Monday, SA again was victorious, toppling the Sandgropers 5-4 and completed a magnificent treble on Saturday April 29, 1905 by defeating the improving WA 1-0.

For the record: Those trailblazing pioneers who proudly wore the South Australian team strip for the first time were - Game 1: T. Durward, W. Ware, F. Salmon, R. Patterson, J. Wilde, D. Jeffries, T. Holford, W. Freeman, F. Dobbie, G. Noble, D. Poole.

Game 2: J. Durwood, A. Laws, F. Salmon, R. Patterson, J. Wilde, Hawkes, T. Holford, J. McColl, F. Dobbie, G. Noble, D. Poole.

Game 3: J. Durwood, W. Ware, F. Salmon, R. Patterson, J. Wilde, D. Jeffries, T. Holford, W. Freeman, F. Dobbie, G. Noble, D. Poole.

For younger readers: No substitutes were allowed in those days.

INJURY WOES

A troublesome injury list has forced SA coach Mike Barnett and manager Denis Harlow to make adjustments to the squad which will be flying the SA Centenary flag for the interstate matches and the friendly games against Japanese J League sides Verdy Kawasaki and Consolole Sapporo.

Blue Eagles champion Corey Artone and new Galaxy star signings Jamie Perin and Ben Moore are sidelined through injury along with Lee Robertson, while Jimmy Tsekinis and Paul Pezos have been omitted from the squad.

On the credit side, Michael Brooks (Blue Eagles) and Paul Simmons (Metro Stars) are back in training as the final stages of their recuperation following injury.

Bill Misailidis (Metro Stars) has been added to the squad and SASI goalkeeper Michael Ball is helping out at training sessions.

Meanwhile, SA will fine tune the tough schedule with trial games against Para-



Michael Brooks: Recovering well from injury in time for South Australia centenary celebrations.

Hills Knights at Rushworth Reserve, Blair Athol on Wednesday January 23, and against Pirates (formerly Port Lion) at the same-venue on Wednesday, January 30. Both matches will kick-off at 6.30pm.

PLAYFORD PICK-UPS

Playford Patriots have recruited Campbelltown Red Devils pair Adam Perre and Mario Staltari and the widely experienced George Haralabgkis from Raiders as they gear for the Summer Series.

Negotiations are continuing with Con Georgiou and Lucio DaRocha from Raiders as coach Alby Kidd eyes a top five spot as his major objective for this Premier League season.

A number of young players from last season's Under 23 and Under 19 teams are expected to be given the opportunity to savour the heady feel of Premier League football action.

Playford takes on Olympic FC in the opening round of the Summer Series at Hindmarsh Stadium on Monday, January 21.

Meanwhile, Raiders have covered their

loses well by grabbing Ric Cerrachio (Northern Demons), John Fusco (Galaxy), Daniel Menechella (Campbelltown) and Croydon Kings trio, Ed Scalzi, Sam Barbaro and Sean Widara.

Raiders coach Michael Petrillo also is keen to secure Adelaide Zebras Premier League striker Robbie Saraceno but the asking price is too steep.

ABSW's SA correspondent, Allan Crisp, former Australian international and ex-Adelaide City Force midfielder and coach, John Perin and Peter Millar, can be heard on the 5RPH (1197AM) Marshall Thompson Homes/Pacific Real Estate Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am.

Perin and Crisp are joined by SA and Blue Eagles striker Michael Brooks each Sunday for the 5RPH SOS (Soccer on Sunday) program from 8.30am-9.30am when the latest local, overseas and interstate scores are aired along with the fast breaking news, views and interviews.

World Cup job sends Shield into cartwheels

Soccer Australia last week announced that Australian referee Mark Shield was chosen to officiate at the 2002 FIFA World Cup in Korea/Japan.

"When I found out this morning, I was doing cartwheels in the office because it really is a dream come true for me and a great thing for me to be chosen from the NSL and Oceania for the world's premier sporting event - a reflection of the growing stature of Australian refereeing within FIFA," revealed Shield.

The FIFA Referees' Committee appointed 36 refer-

ees and 36 assistant referees for the forthcoming tournament, with NSL assistant Referee Paul Smith, from New Zealand, also picked.

Mark Shield, who will be refereeing at his first-ever World Cup Finals, was ecstatic when he learnt of his selection and is determined to represent the NSL and the Oceania region in a professional manner at the finals.

"It's fantastic news and very humbling to get a prestigious refereeing appointment like the World Cup, which only comes around every four years," said Mark Shield.

FIFA officials will prepare the referees for the tournament by asking them to follow a rigorous fitness programme to ensure peak fitness for the finals, and then they will be also required to attend a comprehensive seminar in the Korean capital Seoul, between 20 - 23 March 2002.

Mark Shield, who has been a FIFA referee since 1999, has previously been selected to referee at the FIFA Under-17 World Championship in New Zealand in 1999, followed by the Under 16 UEFA European Final Championships in 2000, the East Asian Games in Japan

in 2001 and the FIFA World Youth Championship Argentina 2001.

In other news, in recognition of the quality of NSL referees another Australian, Simon Micallef has been picked by UEFA to its annual referees course for Top, First Class and new International referees in Monaco on 12 - 15 February 2002.

This represents a significant honour for Simon Micallef and the NSL, and also underlines the growing ties between UEFA and Oceania.



Simon Micallef: Picked for top UEFA course.



Mark Shield: "...It's a dream come true for me."

Gary Faria extends Glory spell

By Richard Kreider

Creative midfielder Gary Faria last week signed a new three-year deal with Perth Glory.

Faria (22) has made a big impact since joining Perth Glory from local State league side Fremantle City and has impressed many with his smooth



transition into the National Soccer League ranks. Fighting for a place in the

highly competitive engine room of the side, namely Brad Maloney, Edgar Junior, Gareth Naven, Antonio Naglieri and PJ Roberts, Faria overcame pre-season injury problems and early setbacks to score in successive games and earn man of the match ratings in both matches.

"We are delighted to have secured Gary on a long-term deal," said Glory acting Chief Executive Officer Jeff Dennis.

"While still a young player with great potential he is already a contributor to the club's success. It is also pleasing to make sure another talented Western Australian product is on show in his home State."

Youngster Anthony Danze, currently with the AIS, has also signed a three-year deal and Perth Glory is continuing negotiations with several other players whose contracts expire at the end of the current season.

Meanwhile, Glory's young defender Todd Harnwell is to join Singapore outfit Marine Castle United on loan.

Harnwell, younger brother of Jamie Harnwell, will link up with former Sorrento coach Trevor Morgan in a move that will see him gain experience and match fitness over the course of the Singapore season.

"Todd is a very promising prospect and it was felt first team football was the best option for him at this time," said Jeff Dennis. We have the option to bring Todd back if he is required but in the mean time he will gain invaluable experience."



Mitch D'avary: Perth Glory's head coach.



Gary Faria: "We are delighted to have secured Gary on a long term deal."

AUSTRALIA BOUND FOR KOREA?

Australia may be back on the international stage in March as it is being pencilled-down to play in a game planned to open one of the new World Cup Stadiums in South Korea.

Coach Frank Farina, who was confirmed as national coach only last week for the next four years, said Soccer Australia (SA) had been put on alert about the possibility of appearing in the match.

The likely opponent however remains unknown.

Farina nonetheless rated the possibility of Australia playing Italy in Rome in a planned international friendly in April at just 50-50 due to the the soccering body's financial problems.

Farina also said he thought most of the players who featured in last year's failed World Cup qualifying campaign to be available for the Germany 2006 World Cup qualifying series which start next year.

JUNIOR SOCCER GETS BIG PUSH IN ACT

By Graham Cooke

Soccer Canberra will be making an all-out effort to build on its burgeoning junior base, which reached 9500 registrations last year, Junior League administrator Steve McIntyre says.

The target this year will be to crack the 10,000 mark, he said.

"I realise it is going to be difficult with no NSL club in Canberra and the Soccerroos not qualifying for the World Cup," he said.

"But we have decided not to stay on the back foot, but to come out and fight the other codes to retain and even increase our

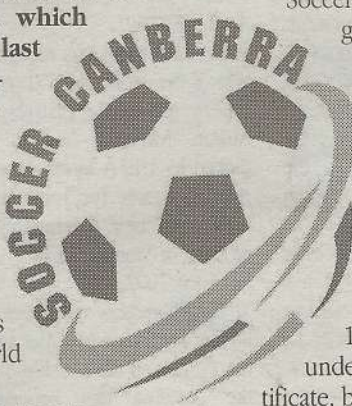
numbers. A lot of great work has been done in the past and it would be a shame to see it all go to waste."

The campaign begins this week with a Soccer training camp for boys and girls to be run at Mawson Oval from Monday to Friday. A similar camp will be run on the north side of Canberra the following week.

"The aim is to combine quality coaching with school holiday fun," McIntyre said.

"The cost is \$55 for the six to 10-year-olds and \$90 up to under 13. Everyone will get a certificate, ball and a t-shirt."

Further information can be obtained from Soccer Canberra on 6260 4000.



Australia's players celebrating in Pusan, Korea last year in the Confederations Cup. They might be returning later this year.

MILLS MOUNTS ROYALS' SADDLE

By Graham Cooke

Weston Creek Royals have appointed a new head coach, Patrick Mills, in an attempt to reverse the slide that has seen them at the foot of the ACT Premiership for the past two seasons.

Mills predicted there would be a number of changes at the suburban club, including the likelihood of

paid contracts for the first-grade squad in an effort to attract quality players.

Club spokesman Chris Tanner added a combative off-the-field note when he said the compulsory under-23 division was a waste of time and a passport to mediocrity.

He said the under-19 division, which had been made voluntary this season, should be retained and the under 23s scrapped.

"We only plan to field two

grades, so if we have to play our under 19s in the under 23s, that's what we will do," he said. "It's a shame that some clubs put the progress of the premiership at the back of their agendas."

His comments fly in the face of a statement by Senior League chairman Walter Valeri last week that all eight remaining Premiership clubs would be competing in the under-19 division.

GLEEFUL FARINA STAYS WITH ATHENS IN MIND

"I'm delighted at the outcome of the recent negotiations and look forward to working on the national teams again as we begin the long road to Germany in 2006," national manager, Frank Farina said last week after being given another chance to lead Australia to the World Cup following their heart-breaking failure to qualify for Japan and South Korea after finally agreeing a new four-year deal worth \$640,000.

Farina, who has been national coach since 1999, always said he

wanted to stay on despite the heart-wrenching 3-1 loss to Uruguay in November, but the problem was money.

His decision to sign a new contract with the Socceroos followed almost two months of talks with cash-strapped Soccer Australia, who had wanted Farina to take a pay cut. He refused, even threatening to quit when SA stalled on a new deal.

That was avoided when tv broadcasters, Channel 7 stepped in to help pay for a better contract.

The news also rules out a possible move for Farina by Serie A side Perugia. They had been keen for the Australian to replace Serse Cosmi as coach at the Renato Curi in the summer.

"If you want to know whether we are following him, the answer is yes," the club had long since admitted. Perugia were ready to offer Farina a mouth-watering two-year deal worth \$1million – almost twice what he is getting from SA.

Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop said: "We are extremely pleased to have secured the services of Frank Farina as national team coach for the next four years, ensuring we build on the results achieved over the last 18 months and plan long-term for World Cup qualification for 2006.

"Frank has now been given the opportunity to arrange his preparations well in advance for both the Olympic Under-23 team for Athens 2004, and the Socceroos for 2006, thus ensuring the best possible outcome for our important national teams."

Farina's deputy, Graham Arnold was however not so lucky. He will only keep his job on a part-time basis as the Soccer Australia clearly indicated they were financially unable to offer him a new deal.

Frank Farina: "We now begin the long road to Germany in 2006."

WA SOCCER SET TO PROSPER, PREDICTS PROSPERO

By Richard Kreider

Soccer in Western Australia is set to move forward with a united approach to developing the game in the State following the election of Louis Prospero as President of the Soccer Administration of Western Australia.

Mr Prospero, a delegate from the affiliates as the representative of the Soccer Australia Referees' Commission, was elected last weekend and has pledged to lead the game to a new era of stability and unity.

"For too long we have had a divisive and fragmented approach," said Mr Prospero.

"Using the State Government's Fielding Report as a model the intention is now to bring together the interests of Western Australian Soccer into a new management structure which sees all elements of the code working together for the improvement of Soccer in Western Australia.

I also intend to hold a meeting of all the stakeholders within the code including the regional areas so that the soccer community can move ahead in unison to a revamped structure," he said.

"As a referee I am used to being impartial and that experience will be very useful to move the game towards a new era of cooperation and mutual support."

The election of the new President will allow Western Australia's Soccer community to build on recent developments. "We have a proud history of soccer in WA stretching back over more than a century," said Mr Prospero.

"At a time when the new board of Soccer

Australia is setting a new path for the game it is highly appropriate that Western Australian soccer will be doing the same.

"We will now seek support from the State Government in the form of a facilitator who can assist us in guiding the soccer community

through the process of change, with the Fielding Report's recommendations as a basis for a new beginning," ended Mr Prospero. Keith Jones (Treasurer) and Peter Koulizus are also new board members on SAWA.

Jones brings experience being an ex-state player and currently the Vice President of Soccer West Coast while Koulizus is a former NSL coach, Vice President of Floreat Athena and a board member of the local Soccer body, Soccer West Coast.



Western Australia state squad just before their friendly hitout against visiting Red Star Belgrade last year in Perth.

National Youth League

SOUTHERN DIVISION

RESULTS RD 12

Green Gully (Matthew Scerri)	1 Melbourne Knights Aca (Masumi Nishida, Dario Markovic)	2
Melbourne Knights Academy (Xhezair Sulemani 4, Ralph Napoli)	5 Albury Wodonga (Dean Grant)	1
South Melbourne Eagles (David Del Grosso, Edemar Garcia)	2 Preston Lions	0
Melbourne Knights Youth (Sam Kalakias, Antun Kovacic)	2 Bulleen Zebras	1
Green Gully (Matthew Scerri)	1 South Melbourne Institute 4 (Jess Krncevic, Dimitri Tsiaras, Steven Pace, Sebastian Petrovic)	4

SOUTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE LADDER - RD 12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	11	9	2	0	49	11	29
South Melb. Eagles Ac	11	7	1	3	24	13	22
Melbourne Knights	11	6	3	2	25	12	21
Melbourne Knights Acad.	12	6	2	4	28	17	20
Bulleen Zebras	11	5	1	5	23	29	16
Albury Wodonga	11	3	1	7	20	29	10
Green Gully Cavaliers	11	2	2	7	8	24	8
Preston Lions	12	0	2	10	12	54	2

Round 4 Fixture

Wednesday 16 January 2002

Bulleen Zebras v South Melb. Eagles Aca., (Veneto Club, 7.30 pm)

Round 13 Fixtures

Friday 18 January 2002

Melbourne Knights Academy v South Melbourne Institute,
(Knights Stadium, 7.30 pm)

Sunday 20 January 2002

Bulleen Zebras v Green Gully, (Veneto Club, 5 pm)

Preston Lions v Melbourne Knights Youth, (Connor Reserve, 5 pm)

Albury Wodonga v South Melbourne Eagles, (Myrtleford, 5 pm)

By Roy Hay

South Melb. Eagles 2 Preston Lions 0

South Melbourne Eagles beat Preston Lions by 2-0 at Bob Jane Stadium after the kick-off was delayed for over an hour because the match officials went to the wrong ground.

David Del Grosso opened the scoring for the Eagles in 20 minutes and Edemar Garcia made it two in 41 minutes. Del Grosso had an outstanding match as did David Puccio of the Eagles. The Eagles will play the catch up game from Round 4 against Bulleen Zebras at the Veneto Club.

Melbourne Knights Youth 2 Bulleen Zebras 1

Melbourne Knights left it very late before grabbing a two-one win over Bulleen Zebras on Saturday at Knights Stadium. It was a fairy-tale return for Antun Kovacic who has been out of the game following a knee construction for nearly a year.

With four minutes left to play, the Knights coaching staff decided to give him a run and put him up front. In the last minute of play Kovacic scored the winning goal.

Earlier Paul Presti had given Bulleen the lead in the forty-first minute, which it held till Sam Kalakias's equalizer in 54 minutes. Kalakias, Jose Virquez and Vangel Cecov were the top players for the Knights and Boris Ovcin deserves a special mention for playing three

games in three days, including one against a visiting team from Croatia. Serkan Oksuz has been signed on a senior contract by the Knights after a string of fine performances at youth level.

Green Gully 1

South Melbourne Institute proved too strong for Green Gully at Green Gully Reserve on Sunday, winning by four goals to one.

The Blues led 2-0 at 19 minutes and Dimitri Tsiaras in 25 minutes. Steven Pace and Sebastian Petrovic extended the lead to four-nil, before Matthew Scerri replied with an 80th minute penalty for Gully. Pace and Tsiaras were the stars of the show, as the league's leading scorers now with 11 and 14 goals respectively.

Melb. Knights Academy 5 Albury Wodonga 1

Albury Wodonga has been the bogey team for the Melbourne Knights in the past, and it surprised its hosts by taking a one-nil lead against the wind inside six minutes against the Academy side. Dean Grant was the scorer for the Warriors.

Stung into a quick riposte Xhezair Sulemani led the charge for the Academy with a hat-trick in 15, 20 and 28 minutes. Ralph Napoli made it four in 41 minutes and the game was virtually over. The Warriors could not turn the wind advantage in the second half into goals and Sulemani popped up to add his fourth and the Academy's fifth in 82 minutes.

NORTHERN DIVISION

RESULTS RD 14

NSWIS (Timpano 18i pen, 30i, 75i)	3 Sydney United Colts (Perica 7i, Simy 70i)	2
Northern Spirit Youth (Foti 41)	1 Parramatta Power Youth (Gavaghan 3' pen, 73')	2
Marconi Stallions Youth	0 Wollongong Wolves Youth (Austin 69')	1
Marconi Stallions Colts	0 Newcastle United Youth (Libbesson 23', Davelaar 56', Bennis 82')	3
Sydney United Youth	0 Olympic Sharks Youth	0

LEAGUE LADDER RD 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	14	11	0	3	50	14	33
Newcastle United Youth	15	11	0	4	31	18	33
Wollongong Wolves Youth	14	10	1	3	37	19	31
Sydney United Youth	14	9	2	3	30	10	29
AIS	12	9	0	3	32	15	27
Marconi Stallions Youth	14	8	1	5	24	13	25
QAS	14	7	3	4	27	20	24
ACTAS	12	7	0	5	26	28	21
Olympic Sharks Youth	15	4	5	6	23	21	17
Northern Spirit Youth	14	4	3	7	27	31	15
NSWIS	17	4	2	11	19	45	14
Brisbane Toro	13	2	0	11	16	43	6
Sydney United Colts	14	1	2	11	11	46	5
Marconi Stallions Colts	14	1	1	12	9	39	4

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

- ACTAS Vs QAS 5.00pm AIS Soccer Field
- Wollongong Wolves Youth Vs Parr. Power Yth, 5.00pm, WIN Stad
- Newcastle Utd Youth Vs Nthn Spirit Yth, 5.15pm Marathon Stad
- AIS Vs Marconi Stallions Colts 7.00pm AIS Soccer Field
- QAS Vs Sydney United Youth 4.35pm Ballymore
- Marconi Stallions Youth Vs NSWIS, 4.30pm Marconi Stadium
- Sydney Utd Colts Vs ACTAS, 5.00pm Sydney Utd Sports Centre
- Olympic Sharks Youth Vs Brisbane Toro, 4.00pm Wentworth Park

SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

Matildas off to Oz Cup winning start

AUSTRALIA1
(April Mann 72m)
SOUTH KOREA0
at Robertson Oval, Wagga Wagga

The Matildas were the deserved 1-0 winners in Sunday night's Australia Cup opener against South Korea, getting them off to a good start in the three-test series.

Substitute April Mann scored the solitary goal midway through the second half in a game largely dominated by the Australians. The goal was the Queenslander's second in just four internationals. A large crowd of 3,712 turned out in Wagga Wagga for what was the region's first soccer international and sat up close to the action.

The Koreans made an all-out attack for the first ten minutes, forward Cha Sung Mi's drive from the edge of the box headed off the line by Sharon Black. The home side then survived two Korean freekicks and another shot before settling into the game.

The Matildas forged on after their sluggish start, their physical strength and height proving too great an obstacle for the bustling Koreans in a clash played at a breakneck speed throughout. With both sides quickly closing down the ball-carrier, the match lacked real fluency and time on the ball.

Joanne Peters' drive was saved, before Mann scored in the 72nd minute. Sub Heather Garriock sent in a deep corner kick from the left which was met beautifully with a headed shot from Cheryl Salisbury. The ball was blocked right on the line, with the crumbs gratefully finished by Mann from close range. Soon after, Salisbury sent through a fantastic long ball for Mann, her strike thumping against the post.

Australia then held out for the remainder of the match to claim the victory.

Starting defender Rhian Davies celebrated her first cap for Australia, whilst Gill Thomson came off the bench to also make

her international debut. Two experienced Matildas also made their first appearances in a while, striker Lisa Casagrande playing her first international since the 2000 Pacific Cup after finally shaking off a troublesome foot injury. Joanne Peters made her Matildas comeback since taking a break soon after the 1999 World Cup.

Adrian Santrac was happy to notch up his first win as fulltime National Coach, saying, "The Koreans have just played in the Asian Championships so are at the top of their game. We were competent - we started slow, but we pulled together and made three or four fantastic chances in the second half. It was a deserved result, although we could have scored more. But it's a good way to start the tournament."

AUSTRALIA: Nichols, Wainwright, Salisbury, Tann, Bartlett, Davies (Thomson 67), Rockall (Garriock 63), Forman (c), Peters, Black (Golebiowski 77), Casagrande (Mann 63).



Joanne Peters

PETERS RETURNS HOME TO RIVERINA

Leeton United Soccer Club knew there was that something special about Joanne Peters, the girl that could more than mix it with her male teammates and opponents.

"She'll do well in soccer" and "Joey's gonna play for Australia one day" were the comments made during her seven years with the United boys.

Last week, "Joey" returned to the Riverina as a Matildas midfielder for the Australia Cup against South Korea, bringing back fond recollections of a memorable childhood growing up in Leeton.

The significance of Joanne's return to her hometown region was made tangible when she bumped into a friend from her Leeton days just an hour after the Matildas' arrival in Wagga Wagga last Tuesday, and hoped that was a sign others would come along to see

her in action for Australia.

"It was good to see him - it brought back a lot of good memories and I hope to see a few more friends. Hopefully people remember and they come along to the game - that would mean a lot to me."

Joanne attributes a significant part of her success to the grounding she received at Leeton United under coach Eddie Palmer.

"Eddie was a really good coach. He really encouraged me as much as the boys, made sure I was up there with the guys."

The 22-year-old also excitedly recalls the time her Leeton Public School team went all the way to the NSW Primary Schoolgirls Knockout final and beat Sydney team Eastwood.

"At age twelve, Joanne and family moved to Sydney where her father, a church minister, had been relocated. NSW Director of

Young Matildas crush NSW

YOUNG MATILDAS3
(E Davison 17, L De Vanna 54, S Stocco 67)
NSW SELECT0

The Young Matildas' second match during their week-long training camp produced another win, 3-0 over a youthful but solid NSW Select unit.

The clash was a curtainraiser to the Australia Cup international before a good size crowd, with Wagga Wagga stars Bernadette Madden and Sarah Forge adding additional local interest as they took the field for NSW.

The clash was very spirited and competitive, the large majority of the NSW Select side also age eligible for the Australian U19s and therefore determined to also put on a good show. The added experience of the Young Matildas won through in the end.

Emma Davison gave the Young Matildas the first-half lead, whilst Lisa De Vanna and captain Stacey Stocco hit the target after the break.

Young Matildas - Marzotto, Stevens, Slatyer, Reuter, Davison, Brooks, McCallum, Stocco (c), Neilson, Harch, De Vanna. Subs - Kuralay, Cannuli, Borucinski, Cumine, Fullard, Gill, Pichon, Crawford, Hartley.

NSW Select - Favretti, Holloway, Hogg, Warrenner, Madden, Collins, Ledbrook, Hilder, Blayney, Forge, Kimber (c). Subs - Todd, Holcombe, Howes.

4TH AUSTRALIA CUP: MATILDAS v SOUTH KOREA

Wed 16 January 2002
7.00pm, Lavington Sports Club Oval, Albury

(Curtainraiser 4.30pm - Young Matildas v Victoria Vision)

Sat 19 January 2002, 7.00pm

Tom Flood Sports Centre, Bendigo
(Curtainraisers - Victoria Select U17 v Bendigo Open - 4.00pm;

Victoria Select U14 v Bendigo U17 - 2.00pm)

I'll always play for Australia, Kewell assures

Australian star Harry Kewell last week dismissed suggestions he would have turned his back on the national side if Frank Farina was not retained as coach.

Kewell insisted on Leeds United's website that he would continue to make himself available for Australia — with or without Farina at the helm.

However, the exciting 23-year-old midfielder, currently sidelined with a back injury, asked Soccer Australia (SA) to do everything it could to retain

Farina.

"Personally I think he is a great manager and if players have said that they may consider their international futures, then there is only one thing to do and that is to give him the job."

Kewell's insistence that Farina be retained follows a similar declaration from Soccerroos captain Paul Okon. The Soccerroos coach last week initialled a new four-year contract after an initial stalemate with SA after getting a reduced offer from the Soccer-ruling body.

"I just go out and do my stuff whatever Frank decides," Kewell said.



Eric Cantona: "An attack on honour and integrity."

CANTONA RUBBISH CASH-IN-HAND CLAIM

Former France and Manchester United star Eric Cantona last week angrily denied demanding \$A193,500 to play just one match in the National Soccer League for the Melbourne Knights.

Cantona, who has recently been promoting beach soccer, was reportedly so angry about the report that he hinted at taking legal action.

In a statement issued in France on his behalf by lawyers, Cantona responded to recent reports by denying he had asked for the sum to face South Melbourne in an NSL match on February 9.

The thirty-five year-old Cantona, said he had not been in touch with the Knights, pointing out he hung up his professional boots four years ago.

He blasted the reports as "an attack on his honour and reputation".

He was said to have been paid \$US50,000 (\$A96,750) late last year for appearing in testimonial game for his friend Diego Maradona in Buenos Aires, Argentina in December.

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

Wolves Committed — Chatting to club captain Stuart Young, the boys are confident carrying on winning games, follow the road up the ladder.

The fans appreciate the effort and will come out in numbers to cheer the side on. Training during the week was intense — Monday — Tuesday AM and PM — Wednesday — Thursday with the squad working hard. Even team captain George Souris — on the road to recovery, kicked a ball for the first time, hoping to make a comeback within a few weeks or so.

There seems to be no reason for Coach Ron Corry to change the make-up of the team for the coming game except for sudden injuries which could be a bit frustrating for ace marksman Stuart Young to warm the bench but when he comes on he will be that much eager to impress everybody, on the other hand he is too much of a professional to accept the changing virtues of soccer, one day you up the tree, the other times things slow down.

The important surge to succeed is now with the Wolves and the feeling is positive at the club. The team is capable of winning more games with a quality assembly of players at hand, particular young talented players pressing for a spot in top grade to prove their worth.

A word to the playing surface at WIN Stadium, looking awful from the stand. Apparently the hierarchy in charge has burned off winter grass in preparation for the one off Rugby League games to be played by that guest team from St. George, Sydney, indicating the trust does not care at all about a decent playing surface for soccer. It is about time the Wolves have their own Stadium in Wollongong, if it cannot be the ideal suited Brandon Park, than the soccer fraternity must lobby the State Government or private business for funds to build their own home base. At present the surface looks poorly-maintained.



Ben Blake: Playing a key role in the Wolves' recent turnaround.

ILLAWARRA - WHERE IS SOCCER GOING IN 2002? — Time is coming up to prepare for another soccer season with thousands of senior and junior players getting fit for a stressful soccer year.

Clubs in ICU Premier League and First Division are calling on their faithful players to attend weekly training, hoping to attract re-enforcement of other experienced players plus talented youth.

Some clubs have strong links with Junior Soccer Clubs like Balgownie Rangers, Kiama, Lysaght, Albion Park, Shellharbour City while others intend to attract young talent offering incentives.

Management Committees have to show

their capabilities to secure enough sponsors supplying funds required to run any soccer club with even moderate success. Costs run around \$60,000.—plus per season for First division and over \$100,000.—to administer a Premier League club.

Not only considerable money for coach and players make up the expenses but also a large amount is needed for Insurance cover per player and officials.

Next are time and money cost to keep ground facilities up to standards including ground rent an floodlights needed for night training or games. Some are more active in that respect than others and it shows in final positioning on the points table.

Referees are not shy to demand increases in fees - Premier Division was \$334.— per home game in 2001 for first grade referee, reserves, youth grade plus two assistants - First Division was \$278.— per home game for all three grades. With an average of 11 home games, costs quickly add up. There are many other hidden administrative expenses concerning playing equipment and or promotion expenses.

A number of volunteers are required to assist at the ground for home games. In that area the Ladies' Auxiliary Committees are an essential ingredient in the club's structure.

The competition proper starts in March, preceded by round one of the Bampton Cup and the Corrimal Leagues' club knockout.

As one of the longest running knock-outs — the Corrimal Leagues' Club has sponsored this event since 1962 — now in its 40th year, a very remarkable achievement.

The inaugural winner was EPT Soccer club (four times) also winning the next two years before Bulli took over (four times winner), Corrimal Rangers (three times), Bellambi (four times), Figtree (four times), Dapto (three times), Fernhill (four times),

South Coast United (three times), and other winner Berkeley, Unanderra, Tarrawanna, Cringila, Port Kembla,

Wollongong White Eagles, Kemblawarra (twice), Coniston (thrice), Northern United, North Wollongong, - up to 2001 a total of 39 winners, prize money over \$4000.—plus gate receipts were distributed to the clubs.

BERTBAMPTON CUP - Was introduced in 1973, in honour of the long serving treasurer of the ISA involved in soccer since 1933 (as a player and administrator) and still attending the annual events like finals and General Meetings, now well in his 70's.

Inaugural winner was Berkeley, Bulli (twice), Tarrawanna (thrice), Shellharbour Workers, Fernhill (thrice), West Figtree (thrice), not played in 1989, Port Kembla (4 times), Coniston, Northern United, Bellambi (twice), Wollongong United, Warilla Wanderers, Aris, Cringila (twice), Lysaght, Kemblawarra - up to 2001, prize money over \$4800.— plus gate receipts were paid out to the participants.

Grounds will be nominated for both pre-season fixtures - the Corrimal Leagues club knock-out will for obvious reasons organised around the Corrimal Leagues club on northern fields. The Bampton Cup rounds will be spread around among the member clubs both sides of Wollongong.

Pre-season Youth Cup — Includes all 28 youth grades or U/20's teams, to be played parallel with the seniors cup games.

For the youngsters the youth Cup was introduced 1977 — first winner Fairy Meadow (twice), Fernhill, Bellambi, Corrimal Rangers, Thirroul, West Figtree, 1989 not played, Wollongong Olympic, Lysaght (5 times winners), Northern United, Warilla Wanderers, Oak Flats, Balgownie (3 times), Tarrawanna, South

Coast Croatia, Cringila Lions, Bulli - prize money over \$1700.—plus gate receipts were paid out.

Club Latest Details — Warilla Wanderers announced last week their coaching staff — Head Coach Tom Cabanas, a long time stalwart with the soccer club for over 20 years playing first grade.

Assistant coach Renato Vasquez (player coach), Youth Grade coach Max Dimetich, strapper Don Briggs. The driving forces in administration are President Alex Temelkovski and Secretary Sergio Baez, training started last week, to continue every Tuesday and Thursday, initial attendance very encouraging.

Youth grade will commence training this week on Monday 14th January 6.30 PM at King Mickey Park, George Street.

Shellharbour City — first training run this year under new Head Coach Barney King attracted over 39 players, according to active President Andy Campbell over 10 apologies were phoned in due to work commitment and or holidays, a very pleasing start.

An excellent club prospectus 2002 has been produced by the management for general information, a fine piece of professional approach. Assistant coaching staff are Andy Day and Andrew (Harry) Hudson, both long time club members as players and supporters. Ambitions and expectations are aimed at a good placing in the competition.

Ladies Soccer — The Illawarra Women's soccer association - affiliated with the ISA (senior body) — nominated a new secretary in Nicki Bowman on phone 42675113.

Competition proper commences late March - cup games to be played previously - nominations for teams to be submitted to Secretary, phone call at this stage will suffice.

Viareggio Tournament 2002

Leichhardt Tigers Off To Italy



THE LEICHHARDT TIGERS' Youth team, and current League champions of the NSW Premier League, fly out late this Saturday afternoon bound for Italy where they will compete in the globally renowned and prestigious Youth competition, the Viareggio Tournament.

This will be the 54th consecutive Viareggio Tournament staged in the North Western coastal City of Viareggio, in the picturesque Tuscany region of Italy. Viareggio is where the Creme De La Creme of young talent annually gather in serious competition.

This Tournament will be a cocktail of no less than 40 club Youth teams, split into ten Groups competing at this year's Viareggio Tournament from countries stretching across Europe, Africa as well as the Americas.

The Youth teams that have entered this year's fabulous Viareggio Tournament include strong club sides from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brasil, Czech Republic, Colombia, Ghana, Germany, Holland, Israel, Italy, Macedonia, Mexico, Senegal, Spain, USA plus Yugoslavia.

Oddly enough, this time round, not one single club team will be competing from the U.K.

In past years giant clubs of the likes of Manchester United

and Glasgow Rangers repeatedly would send their Youth teams to do battle at Viareggio Tournaments.

President of the Leichhardt Tigers, Mr Tony Raciti, who for many months prior, tenaciously fought, struggled and finally



TOM CORTE Leichhardt Tigers' touring captain.

planned the Tigers' entry to this prestigious Tournament, stated last night to ABSW: "Planning this trip has been of monumental proportions, not to mention the massive costs involved in such a mega Soccer project.

"Despite us far from being a wealthy Club, I felt that our decision to go over to Viareggio would not only be a fabulous experience for our lads, but also will embrace for our Club a large prestigious achievement.

"It is after all a mini Youth team Club World Cup," ended Raciti.

Over the years, many young super stars were spawned and highly recognised at the Viareggio Tournament, young talent that went on to etch their names at senior and international levels.

Such stars included former Italian World Cup captain Franco Baresi, left winger

Bruno Conti, Italy's striker Alessandro Del Piero, Argentina's ace-marksmen Gabriel Battistuta plus Manchester United and England World Cup defender, Phil Neville.

Even two teenagers, now living in Australia and who later went on to play for years in the NSL, had also participated in past Viareggio Tournaments.

Former Sydney Olympic's sweeper Kenny Wilson and the Perth Glory's current left striker Alistair Edwards, both have played at Viareggio Tournaments, both having competed there with past Glasgow Rangers' Youth teams.

Wilson in fact had compete in three consecutive Viareggio Tournaments, (1975, 76 and 77),



JOHN ROMEO: Leichhardt Tigers' champion coach.

and all three times with Rangers of Scotland before migrating to Australia in 1977 to join new Club, Sydney Olympic in its first year of NSL.

Wilson last night spoke highly of Viareggio, stating: "Although Rangers competed in three consecutive years, we could never win it. It was always very tough. I scored when Rangers beat Lazio 1-0 in 1976 and I scored in 1975, but the

By John Economos

powerful A.C. Milan came back to beat us (Rangers), 2-1," ended Wilson

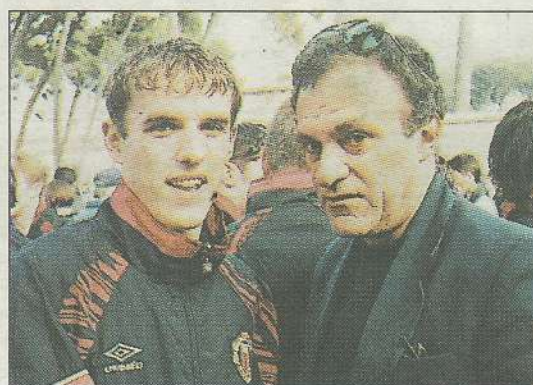
Tigers In Group 5

The Leichhardt Tigers have been slotted into Group 5 of this year's Tournament, and bracketed with three Italian Youth teams from Piacenza (Serie A), Vicenza (Serie B) and Cittadella-Padova (Serie C).



TONY RACITI: President of the Leichhardt Tigers.

Leichhardt Tigers' coach John Romeo who has won the



PHIL NEVILLE, Manchester United's captain and current England World Cup defender, with ABSW's John Economos at the 1997 Viareggio Tournament.

last two NSW Premier Youth League Championships, is highly excited about the tour to Viareggio next week.

The ambitious coach stated to ABSW last night: "It's going to be a fabulous, if not unbelievable experience for all of us.

"It's incredible to think that we from Leichhardt, have been given the opportunity to compete on what is really a World Stage in Soccer.

"I must add that it is going to be a huge honour to be able to do so. "Hopefully, we perform well and do credit not only for our own Club, but for Australia," Romeo pledged.

The captain of the touring team is 19 year old talented Tom Corte, who operates as a 'screener' for the team.

The Young Tigers having won the NSW Premier League Championship the past two consecutive seasons, have targeted to win their third this year.

However last Saturday the Tigers experienced a hiccup in their Championship campaign when they lost 2-1 to Belconnen in the A.C.T.

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNER-UP
1949	MILAN	Lazio
1950	SAMPDORIA	Roma
1951	PARTIZAN	Sampdoria
1952	MILAN	Partizan
1953	MILAN	Inventus
1954	LAN. VICENZA	Juventus
1955	LAN. VICENZA	Sampdoria
1956	SPARTAK PRAGA	Milan
1957	MILAN	Roma
1958	SAMPDORIA	Fiorentina
1959	MILAN	Partizan
1960	MILAN	Dukia Prague
1961	JUVENTUS	Lan. Vicenza
1962	INTER MILAN	Fiorentina
1963	SAMPDORIA	Bologna
1964	DUKLA PRAGUE	Bologna
1965	GENOA	Juventus
1966	FIorentina	Dukia Prague
1967	BOLOGNA	Fiorentina
1968	DUKLA PRAGUE	Juventus
1969	ATALANTA	Napoli
1970	DUKLA PRAGUE	Milan
1971	INTER MILAN	Milan
1972	DUKLA PRAGUE	Inter Milan
1973	FIorentina	Bologna
1974	FIorentina	Lazio
1975	NAPOLI	Lazio
1976	DUKLA PRAGUE	Milan
1977	SAMPDORIA	Milan
1978	FIorentina	Roma
1979	FIorentina	Perugia
1980	DUKLA PRAGUE	Lazio
1981	ROMA	Ipswich Town
1982	FIorentina	Ipswich Town
1983	ROMA	Inter Milan
1984	TORINO	Napoli
1985	TORINO	Roma
1986	INTER MILAN	Sampdoria
1987	TORINO	Fiorentina
1988	FIorentina	Torino
1989	TORINO	Roma
1990	CESENA	Napoli
1991	ROMA	Napoli
1992	FIorentina	Roma
1993	ATALANTA	Milan
1994	JUVENTUS	Fiorentina
1995	TORINO	Fiorentina
1996	BRESCIA	Parma
1997	BARI	
1998	TORINO	
1999	MILAN	
2000	EMPOLI	
2001	MILAN	
2002	54TH "TORNEO MONDIALE DI CALCIO "COPPA CARNEVALE 2002"	

ASHLEY SHORT: Leichhardt Tigers' talented striker.

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
A.C. MILAN	NAPOLI	TORINO	FIorentina	VICENZA
FEYENOORD (HOLLAND)	BELASICA STRUMICA (MACEDONIA)	TERNANA	F.C. UTA ARAD (ROMANIA)	PIACENZA
SALERNITANA	CASTEL DI SANGRIO	REGGINA	VERONA	CITTADELLA PADOVA
NEW YORK (USA)	GERATION FOOT (SENEGAL)	INDIPENDIENTE SANTE FE' (COLOMBIA)	SANTA CATARINA (BRASIL)	LEICHHARDT TIGERS (AUSTRALIA)
GROUP 6	GROUP 7	GROUP 8	GROUP 9	GROUP 10
ROMA	INTER MILAN	JUVENTUS	ATALANTA	BRESCIA
BAYERN MUNICH (GERMANY)	STELLA ROSSA (YUGOSLAVIA)	PARMA	ANDRELECHT (BELGIUM)	SLAVIA PRAHA (REP. CECA)
PERUGIA	LAZIO	BARI	EMPOLI	PALERMO
DESPORTIVO CAPIXABA (BRASIL)	GREAT AFRICAN STARS (GHANA)	PUMAS UNAM (MEXICO)	MACCABI HAIFA (ISRAEL)	C. DEPORTIVO ESPANOL (ARGENTINA)

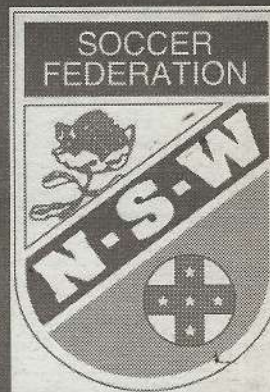
LEICHHARDT TIGERS — VIAREGGIO SQUAD 2002



ROW 4: Michael O'Riley, Luke Tyburski, Pascal Julliard, Daniel Cunningham, Tom Corte (Captain), Paul Nicolaou.
 ROW 3: Ashley Short, Daniel Coluccio, Joseph Ciano, John Paul Boutros, Francesco Zarella.
 ROW 2: Joe Trieste, Rockie Restuccia, Murray Nelson, Phillip Zabaks, Nathon Foti, Joshua Dekelly.
 FRONT: Matthew Raciti, Peter Telcevski, Mark Brady, John Romeo (Coach), Luke McGuire, Tom Quilty, Liam Cameron.

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

www.nswpremierleague.com



FEATURE MATCH

Bonnyrigg WE

VS



Central Coast Coasties

KICK-OFF: 7.00pm & 5.00pm, Saturday 19 January 2002
VENUE: Serbian Centre, 13 Simpson Rd, Bonnyrigg

Bonnyrigg continue to sit atop of the Premier League ladder, posting their seventh successive win in disposing of Canterbury 1-0 last Saturday night.

Still unbeaten after ten rounds many pundits are now tipping the White Eagles as the side to beat for this year's premiership taking over the mantle from Blacktown City. Coach Greg Woodhouse still believes there is a long way to go and has his side primed for another strong performance this weekend.

"Our last few games have been difficult," said Woodhouse, "a lot of teams now recognise the tactics we play and are sitting back in defence trying to frustrate us. It's nice to know teams are being negative trying to counter us but still we can't be complacent against any sort of opposition regardless of their position."

"The Coasties won't be easy," conceded Woodhouse. "We have watched them play a few times and their ladder position certainly doesn't reflect their talent or the way

they play. But we have a job to do. Go out and score some goals and fingers crossed we can do enough."

In sharp contrast to Bonnyrigg, the Central Coast has struggled in recent weeks to score goals and have slumped to the wrong end of the competition table. Four successive losses was halted with a 1-1 draw against St. George last week, but for Coach Dale Eggleton he is fast running out of patience with a side that is arguably the best the Coasties have had in recent seasons.

"We must start scoring goals," said Eggleton.

"We are creating chances but we just can't score. It's a confidence thing with the team and we keep working very hard on turning it around but so far it just hasn't happened."

With one goal in their last four starts Eggleton is contemplating a switch up front in order to change his side's fortunes, and with no injuries in the camp that seems entirely likely.

"We certainly haven't given up on the Top Five and

I am absolutely positive we can turn this around," said Eggleton, "but against Bonnyrigg we need to be tight defensively and make sure we take all our chances. That won't be easy but it will determine just how close we can get in this one."

In late news from Plum Park, long serving Coasties defender Marcus Steele has parted company with the club, but on good terms. Marcus has moved from the Central Coast to Sydney for personal and business reasons and has told coach Dale Eggleton that he will now be unable to attend midweek training and the club has agreed to his release.

Marcus came to the Coasties as an eighteen-year-old and immediately made his mark in first grade as a hard but fair defender.

The past couple of seasons has seen him suffer from numerous injuries but he was getting back to his old form of late and becoming a regular first grade starter. Should Marcus decide to continue playing in Sydney he would be an asset to any club.

SQUADS

WHITE EAGLES: 1. Fernando Greco, 2. Sasha Utjesenovic, 4. Bobby Dragas, 5. Tayfun Devrimol, 6. Vuko Tornasevic, 7. Javier Mancino, 8. David Harding, 9. Shane Knight, 10. Christopher Bradley, 11. Johnny Ghiso, 13. Robert Gomez, 14. Leigh Gunn, 15. Peter Cklamovski, 16. Michael Hawrysiuk, 17. Jimmy Aschner, 18. John Kyriazopoulos, 20. David Aceski, 22. Rajko Mandic, 23. Devrim Huseyin.
Coach: Greg Woodhouse

COASTIES: 1. Matthew Collits, 2. Sean Matthews, 4. Danny Burt, 5. Mitchell Daley, 6. Dane Hokin, 7. Peter Preston, 8. Adam Peatey, 9. Damien Smith, 10. Mick Williams, 11. Karl Freeman, 12. Peter Leary, 13. Peter Ritchie, 14. Andrew Clark, 15. Pat Bradley, 22. Darren Moore.
Coach: Dale Eggleton

Coasties lose a favourite son, Marcus Steele.

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES are proudly sponsored by
B & S Windows

PREMIER LEAGUE

ROUND 11

Saturday January 19		1st Grade	U19
St George	vs Belconnen BD	St George Std 6:30pm	4:30pm
Fairfield Bulls	vs Penrith Panthers	Nineveh Field 7:00pm	5:00pm
Bonnyrigg WE	vs Central Coast	Serbian Centre 7:00pm	5:00pm
Bankstown City	vs C'bury M'ville	Jensen Park 7:00pm	5:00pm
Blacktown City	vs S'land Sharks	Gabbie Stadium 7:00pm	5:00pm

Sunday January 20		1st Grade	U19
Leichhardt Tigers	vs P'matta Eagles	Lambert Park 5:00pm	*

*Grade 19 to play Wed 13th Feb 7:00pm Lambert Park

ROUND 12

Friday January 25		1st Grade	U19
St George	vs P'matta Eagles	St George Std 8:00pm	6:00pm

Saturday January 26		1st Grade	U19
Belconnen BD	vs Bonnyrigg WE	W Belconnen SG 6:30pm	4:30pm
Bankstown City	vs Central Coast	Jensen Park 7:00pm	5:00pm
Blacktown City	vs C'bury M'ville	Gabbie Stadium 7:00pm	5:00pm
S'land Sharks	vs Penrith Panthers	Seymour Shaw 7:00pm	5:00pm

Sunday January 27		1st Grade	U19
Leichhardt Tigers	vs Fairfield Bulls	Lambert Park 5:00	**

**Grade 19 to play Wed 27th Feb 7:00pm Lambert Park

NEWS FLASH!!

Sutherland Sharks have appointed former NSWSPF Coach of the Year John Turner, head coach at Seymour Shaw for the next five seasons.
Full story on page 20.

The Cafe La Scala Player of the Week for Round 10 of the NSW Premier League is:



Dean Heffernan
Sutherland Sharks

Cafe La Scala is located at Shop 32, Piazza Level,
Italian Forum, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt Phone: (02) 9572 8577



Inside ... Inside ...

- From The SidelinesP20
- Match Reports.....P24-25
- Leichhardt Tigers in focusP21
- Scoreboard & Picture GalleryP22



NSW Premier League



PREVIEW ROUND ELEVEN

SECOND VERSUS THIRD AT LAMBERT PARK!



Bankstown City Lions

VS

C'bury-M'ville Olympic



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 19 January 2002

VENUE: Jensen Park, Clapham St, Sefton

Since taking over as coach just before Christmas, 'super coach' Ljube Jancev has managed to turn the Lions sinking ship around, and now has them well on their way to a Top Five spot.

Adopting a possession style of play, Bankstown are unbeaten in their past three outings and will fancy themselves to take that to four games this week. Canterbury are in all sorts of trouble and have just one draw from their past seven starts to show for their efforts.

Some internal problems haven't helped leaving the Berries with rumours of a coaching change imminent.

SQUADS

LIONS: 1. Zlatko Josevski, 2. Sefer Yildiz, 3. Richard Luksic, 4. Bryan Raeburn, 5. Anthony Kanaan, 6. Paul Wearne, 7. George Issa, 8. Robert Issa, 9. Goce Trposki, 10. Iain MacDonald, 11. Alex Trposki, 12. Adam Mammoliti, 13. Saso Boskovski, 14. Freddy Umlil, 15. Damien Luksic, 16. Colin Luff, 17. Steven Dimitrievski, 18. Dong-Ki Kim, 19. Robert Angievski, 20. Cem Akilli. **Coach:** Ljube Jancev

OLYMPIC: 1. George Bouhoutsos, 2. Greg Collins, 3. Christian Ortiz, 4. John Manolopoulos, 5. Mark D'Alessandro, 6. Andy Amegashie, 7. Con Faradisis, 8. Yane Talceviski, 9. Mark Beldham, 10. Hussein Jomaa, 11. Aheleas Kotsopoulos, 12. John Pillemer, 14. Mite Talceviski, 15. Emmanuel Papageorgiou, 16. Angelo Markopoulos, 17. Marcelo Guerrero, 18. Ali Salim, 19. Michael Kladis, 20. Les Bihari. **Coach:** John Xipolitas

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS are proudly sponsored by The Good Guys @ Bankstown, ASU - All Sewn Up, New Tech Automotive, Direct Smash Repairs, G.Mack & Co. Accountants, Alex Electrical, Bucinski Accounting Enterprises, BP Yagoona, I&V Plaster, D&S Gyprock, Australiers, M&S Variety, Australian Mortgage Options, P&E Landscaping & Maintenance, D&V Building Supplies, Bexley North Cellars



Blacktown City Demons

VS

Sutherland Sharks



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 19 January 2002

VENUE: Gabbie Stadium, Quinn Ave, Seven Hills

Who would have thought that Blacktown would be sitting outside the Top Three for any part of this season?

But it's true and after going three games without a win, the Demons are now on the outside looking in.

Blacktown did show some positive signs last week against Penrith and they will be looking to this game against the struggling Sharks to get themselves back on track.

The Sharks announced the signing of a new coach, John Turner for the next five years last week, but whether his presence in the grandstand will be enough to inspire the young Sharks is yet to be seen.

SQUADS

DEMONS: 1. John Crawley, 2. Paul Yates, 3. Damien Foxe, 4. Peter Sermanni, 5. Ben Willard, 6. Damon Langan, 7. Paul Dee, 8. Darren Iocca, 9. Kain Rastall, 10. Naoki Imaaya, 11. Jim Nikas, 12. Zlatko Donev, 13. Steve Riches, 14. David Reid, 15. Mark Hagger, 16. Patrick Gatt, 17. Luciano Berbis, 18. Graeme O'Donnell, 19. Chad Lewis, 20. James Wilkinson. **Coach:** Brian Brown

SHARKS: 1. Dennes Olla, 2. Peter Feehan, 3. Alen Stajic, 4. David O'Han, 5. Ben Short, 6. Dean Heffernan, 7. Jamie Danaskos, 8. Monte Pfrangle, 9. Alex Pfrangle, 10. Steve Cklamovski, 11. Kris Karanasos, 12. Dean Spresian, 13. Ambrose Mancia, 14. Andy Watts, 15. Colin McAusland, 16. Kire Josevski, 17. Bill Petrovski, 20. Sam LaMacchia, 21. Mitchell Blowes. **Coach:** Billy McCall

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS are proudly sponsored by Perfection Milk, West Ham United Football Club, Cadbury-Schweppes, Wonderland Travel, Independent Gaming Systems



Leichhardt Tigers

VS

Parramatta Eagles



KICK-OFF: 5pm (1st Grade only) **, Sunday 20 January 2002

VENUE: Lambert Park, Marion St, Leichhardt

**** Grade 19 to play 13/2/2002, 7pm, Lambert Park**

The game of the week without question sees two of the best attacking sides in the league go head to head at picturesque Lambert Park.

Leichhardt picked up three points from their road trip to Canberra last weekend and are chock full of confidence after five straight wins. With Derek Poirer nailing three goals in his last two games, Parramatta is in for a torrid time if both he and Steve Karavatakis are on song.

The Eagles are one of the most lethal sides in the competition and will have Anthony Mondello back from a foot injury to start the match. Sweeper Mirko Jurilj is also playing well and they'll need every ounce of his vast experience to keep the Tigers at bay and take maximum points this week.

SQUADS

TIGERS: 1. Andrew Crews, 2. Kelvin Foster, 3. Joe Moric, 4. Ross Kethel, 5. Steven Livingstone, 6. Michael Galluzzo, 7. Joe Bruni, 8. James Stubbs-Mills, 9. Allan Picken, 10. Steve Karavatakis, 11. Sam La Rocca, 12. Jeremy Brown, 13. Andrew Falas, 15. Ryan Jones, 16. Anthony Tesoro, 17. Jason Lal, 20. John Paul Boutros, 23. Derek Poirer. **Coach:** Les De Celis

EAGLES: 1. Jason Holmes, 2. Daniel Borg, 3. Geoff Dwyer, 4. Malcolm Meilak, 5. Mark Reveley, 6. Mirko Jurilj, 7. Mauricio Islas, 8. Daniel Kukucka, 9. Anthony Mondello, 10. Tony Mittiga, 11. Jim Bakis, 13. Paul O'Grady, 12. Glenn Spod, 14. Stephen Chipps, 15. Ben Delicata, 16. Geoff Howarth, 19. Daniel Cummins, 21. Joel Morgan. **Coach:** Tam Finlayson

LEICHHARDT TIGERS are proudly sponsored by Continental Tyres and Western Suburbs Leagues Club



Fairfield Bulls

VS

Penrith Panthers



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 19 January 2002

VENUE: Nineveh Field, 673 Smithfield Rd, Edensor Park

A must win game for Fairfield who needs to continue their good form to remain in touch with the top three sides.

Penrith are one side who will just never lie down and despite their ladder position they will give themselves every chance of springing an upset.

Striker Rod Hutchinson is the man to watch, having scored 7 goals already this season to lead the Panthers goalscoring charts.

But Nineveh Field is not an easy venue and with a large vocal crowd behind the home side they will be tough to beat.

SQUADS

BULLS: 1. Frank Mikuletic, 3. Mathew Dihm, 4. Paul Bourke, 6. Paul Richardson, 7. Ray Younis, 8. Stewart Van Benthum, 9. Marc Hoenselaars, 10. Mathew Borg, 11. Richard Harrison, 12. Tom Maric, 13. Adam Snyder, 14. Ismael Arrarte, 15. Pat Darvill, 16. Andy Ravanella, 17. Craig Sharpley, 18. Leo Carle, 19. Jason Connolly, 20. Ali Akbal, 21. Fernando Pellegrino. **Coach:** Craig Sharpley

PANTHERS: 1. Chad Taylor, 2. Jon Hawkins, 3. Chris Giometti, 4. Glenn Meilak, 5. Ben Wright, 6. Daniel Wells, 7. Dave Gardiner, 8. Paul Marosevic, 9. Rod Hutchinson, 10. Osvaldo El Ali, 11. Luke O'Connell, 12. Christian Lima, 13. Jason Sciberras, 14. Wayne Berrigan, 15. Danny Hinton, 17. Shane Hammond, 18. Gustavo Orcajo, 20. Tim O'Connell, 21. Ryan Noble, 25. Marty McCaffery, 26. Luke Boyd, 24. Kurt Van Arkkeis. **Coach:** Tony Rassmussen

FAIRFIELD BULLS are proudly sponsored by the Nineveh Sports & Community Club



NSW Premier League



FROM THE SIDELINES *with Greg Stock and Paul Goodwin*

Bankstown City has added another new signing to the ranks. Former Newcastle Breakers and Blacktown City midfielder Robert Angievski has agreed to terms with the Lions and made his debut off the bench in the Lions' 4-3 win over Blacktown City two weeks ago.

Angievski is expected to partner Colin Luff and Goce Trposki in a three pronged forward line. No news yet on the return or otherwise of injured striker Harry Karl.

In the Blue Devils recent trip away trip to Fairfield there were two sets of brothers on the park at the one time in both grades.

At the 86th minute Richard Pietrukowski made his 2001-2002 debut for the under 19s joining Lee who played the whole game. Then in the first grade, scorer Daniel Camara again played in the same team as his brother Stewart. Lee was probably the best on the field in the under 19s whilst both Daniel and Stewart had very good games.

In other club news, the Belconnen Blue Devils have been doing their best out in the community in both fundraising and helping others.

This week Shane Lyons and Michael Katz will be working with ex-Canberra Eclipse player Amy Kilpatrick running a clinic for kids organised through Barnados. Late last year, a couple of the Blue Devils players worked together with some others and raised several thousand dollars for the Children's Cancer Institute with the sale of reindeer antlers.

Expect to see the Blue Devils on the international

stage come later this year. A Korean company, making an advertisement to be run during the upcoming World Cup, used the Blue Devils players, with filming taking place at Bruce Stadium.

St. George Coach Manny Spanoudakis has been hard at work signing a few more legs for the St George first grade side. John Christou and Nabil Codmani came off the bench against Canterbury in Round Nine to make their debuts for the club.

Spanoudakis has also been very pleased with the way his side is training and predicts a turn around in the club's fortunes is not too far away.

"The boys have been working exceptionally hard at training," said Spanoudakis. "In addition we have two of our youth players that have been drafted into the first grade squad, both of whom played against Canterbury."

In fact Jade Permell (17 years old) scored our goal against Canterbury. Paulo Oliveira (18 years old) also played a full first grade game and looked sharp."

The never-ending production line of youth talent continues to roll out at Melita Stadium.

Mark Milligan is the latest name to write in your little black book, and he made his senior debut off the bench against Penrith at Andrews Road Field.

While slight in stature, the few touches he did get show he is an outstanding prospect and one to look out for.



John Turner, pictured giving his acceptance speech in 1999 for the NSW Soccer Federation Coach of the Year, has been named head coach of Sutherland for the next five seasons.

An interested spectator at Jensen Park for the recent Sunday night big clash between Bankstown and Blacktown was Singapore based former Auburn, Parramatta and Blacktown man of steel Scott O'Donnell.

O'Donnell was taking in his first Premier League game during his mid summer break in Sydney and having a look at his nephew Graeme who turns out for the Demons under 19s and was on the bench for first grade that evening. O'Donnell returns to his journalist/commentator duties with Singapore's ESPN TV network later this month and also contributes to the

local Today newspaper and takes a keen interest in the development of the game in the S-League and beyond.

More on Australians in the S-League, which resumes in March, in a later issue.

Ambitious Premier League club the Sutherland Sharks have landed the biggest recruiting coup of the season, signing former Super League Coach of the Year John Turner as first grade coach for the next

five seasons.

The deal brokered by current Head Coach Billy McColl will see Turner take over the coaching reigns next season in a restructured footballing and administrative setup destined to bring success to the sleeping giant of the Premier League.

"It's fantastic to be here," said Turner, before putting pen to paper on a deal which will run through until the completion of the 2006/7 season.

"Sutherland is very serious about moving ahead and I am looking forward to taking the club to the next level." The former Premiership winning coach was an interested spectator at Seymour Shaw Park on Saturday night, watching his new team go down 4-2, and he is under no illusions of the enormity of the task ahead of him.

"It's not going to be easy, but it's a challenge and I really believe that the setup down here is perfect for football success," continued Turner.

"When I first went to Bonnyrigg and Fairfield Bulls the environment was similar and I firmly believe that I can bring the same success to the Sharks as I did with those two clubs."

Club President Richard May agrees. "The board only ratified the deal last

night (Friday) but already the mood is extremely positive," said May.

"It's exciting, it's ambitious, but most importantly it shows we are serious about improving our club and taking it to the top of the Premier League."

While McColl will continue as first grade coach for the remainder of the season he will move upstairs to work with and support the new coaching structure, which will also see Vince Lettieri and Bob Stallard join the club as first grade assistant coach and manager respectively.

"It's a five year plan," said McColl. "It's all about bringing success to the Sutherland Shire and turning this club into championship material within five years. We have a well researched business plan which we will also implement to generate the finances to back the move which will lead to Sutherland being the best footballing club in the league on solid financial footing."

McColl will continue in his role on the Board of Directors, while current under 19s coach Alex Baird will also continue in the new setup. Any player who wishes to express interest for the new season is urged to contact John Turner on 0412 335 121.

ST. GEORGE



St George Saints

VS

Belconnen Blue Devils



KICK-OFF: 6.30pm & 4.30pm, Saturday 19 January 2002
VENUE: St George Stadium, 88 Bestic St, Rockdale

SQUADS

SAINTS: 1. Stacy Alogdellis, 2. Mark Barlamis, 3. Nick Boliantitis, 4. Angelo Petratos, 5. Max Sevares, 6. Spyros Kladis, 7. George Maglis, 8. Joshua Rufo, 9. Achilles Markopoulos, 11. John Fotiadis, 12. Fabio Macolino, 13. Nabil Codmani, 14. Steven Papadopoulos, 15. Nick Mandic, 16. Simon Verrender, 17. Manny Spanoudakis, 18. Sal Zullo, 19. Mladen Damjanovic, 21. Brad Campbell, 22. John Christou, **Coach:** Manny Spanoudakis

BLUE DEVILS: 1. Anthony Giannasca, 2. Toplica Popovich, 3. Matthew Cachia, 4. Elliot Zwangobani, 5. Nic Purdue, 6. Shane Lyons, 8. Michael Katz, 9. Stephen Lazzari, 10. Daniel Macor, 11. David Arranz, 12. Jaime Mauro, 13. Stewart Camara, 14. Elia Salloum, 15. Adrian Dowling, 16. Oscar Zamora, 17. Stephen Kemp, 18. Lee Pietrukowski, 19. Daniel Camara, 20. Rade Kosanovic, **Coach:** Lino Fiorese

ST GEORGE SAINTS ARE PROUDLY SPONSORED by
St George Rowing Club

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

PRODUCTION: Arvind Hickman, Emma Nwaneri, Elly Vea, Mary Quartly
CO-ORDINATOR: Binesh Mudaliar
WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin, Claire Killeen, Lezette Isaac, Ray Sandell, Nick Guoth, Robbie Bartolillo, Gary Vandeburgt
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado
★ All information is courtesy of the New South Wales Soccer Federation.
NSWSF
Valentine Sports Park
235-257 Meurants Lane
GLENWOOD NSW 2768
Phone: (02) 9629 1800



NSW Premier League



CLUB FOCUS

Leichhardt Tigers to compete at Viareggio

By Stuart Veitch

During the recent Christmas break in the NSW Premier League, the thoughts of most youth squad players would have been more on puddings and presents than football.

Not so the Leichhardt Tigers, who under coach John Romeo stepped up the intensity of their training over the break. While the Tigers' under 19s went into Christmas sitting a game clear at the top of the table, their minds were firmly fixed on their participation in the 54th annual Viareggio tournament, to be held in Italy later this month.

The tournament has the look of a World Club Championship for under 20s, with forty clubs competing in a world cup format. This year, there are seventeen clubs from outside Italy (including Leichhardt Tigers) competing, an unusually high number. Clubs from all FIFA Confederations (except Asia) will take part, with Africa represented by clubs from Ghana and Senegal and the Americas by six clubs from Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, the United States and Mexico. Traditional European football powers in Bayern Munich and Feyenoord will provide the toughest competition for the Italian clubs, of which Inter Milan, Juventus and Fiorentina have a strong record in the tournament.

The tournament draw, held just before Christmas, has placed Leichhardt Tigers in the same group as northern Italian clubs Piacenza, Vicenza and Padova, all of which have enjoyed recent spells in Italy's Serie A.

Current Marconi Stallions' Coach Lee Sterrey has an unmatched wealth of experience at Viareggio, having led three Marconi youth teams to the tournament from 1996-98.

Coincidentally, Sterrey and current Leichhardt Tigers' youth Coach John Romeo first encountered each other almost 20 years ago. As a first grade player with Sydney Croatia, Sterrey was given his first coaching assignment — that of minding the club's under 13s. One of his young charges was a 12-year-old John Romeo.

"I think John would have learned very little from me back then," Sterrey laughs. "It was my

first go at coaching and I wasn't really a coach."

Much has changed since then, Sterrey having carved for himself an enviable record as an NSL coach with Newcastle Breakers, and now exceeding expectations at Marconi. Of his experiences at Viareggio, he recalls:

"The atmosphere at Viareggio is just sensational. One year we had Andrea Bocelli singing opera at the opening ceremony. It was so moving the kids had tears in their eyes. The annual carnevale is on at the same time, and its enormous floats and colourful street parades was a real eye-opener for our kids as well.

"On the field, it is a level above anything we had ever experienced. In 1996 we had a

super side which won everything in the NSL youth league. But in Italy the overall guile of the players, their smartness around the football field and their skill level was streets ahead of us.

"In Italy the best under 20s are not in the national youth side but are fringe players with the big clubs, trying to make the grade. They are assessed by their performance in the Viareggio tournament".

An indication of the calibre of opposing teams can be judged by the past player lists which include players of the calibre of

Alessandro Del Piero, Gabriel Batistuta and Franco Baresi.

Sterrey also prepared the Tigers for a familiar issue faced by many Australian squads touring in Europe: that of respect.

"They'll treat you like second class citizens in football terms, not doing you any favours. We had to travel further than anyone and had trouble with training venues; they don't really want foreign teams progressing in the competition."

The treatment did not extend to the match officials, and it is unusual to hear a coach so full of

praise for the high standard of refereeing, despite it requiring a degree of adjustment from his players.

"The referees are brilliant, but the Leichhardt players will find they play by completely different rules over there," says Sterrey. "They are spot on in penalising players who do not play the ball and we had to get used to that, because here the standard is backward by comparison."

Tactically, Sterrey's advice to the Tigers was, "they are real pros in defence, very compact from sweeper to striker and quick to shut down. It will be like an arm wrestle."

So how does Sterrey think Leichhardt will go in the tournament?

"Leichhardt will find it very difficult to make the second round. Even with our super team of '96 we could not manage it. But it really is a great experience for the kids, who will realise there is another level to be attained. As a coach also, I learned more in Viareggio than 5 years of NSL coaching could teach me. For me, Italy is the Mecca of soccer."

The Leichhardt Tigers depart for Viareggio, Italy on 19 January 2002. After a fortnight of being absorbed in football of the highest standard, including watching a couple of Serie A matches, they should return inspired to resume their quest for a third straight youth State League championship.



UNDER 19 SQUAD TO COMPETE AT VIAREGGIO

ROW 4: Michael O'Riley, Luke Tyburski, Pascal Julliard, Daniel Cunningham, Tom Corte (Captain), Paul Nicolaou.
 ROW 3: Ashley Short, Daniel Coluccio, Joseph Ciano, John Paul Boutros, Francesco Zarella.
 ROW 2: Joe Trieste, Rockie Restuccia, Murray Nelson, Phillip Zabaks, Nathan Foti, Joshua Dekelly.
 FRONT: Matthew Raciti, Peter Telcevski, Mark Brady, John Romeo (Coach), Luke McGuire, Tom Quilty, Liam Cameron.



NSW Premier League



SCOREBOARD

ROUND 10

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

PENRITH PANTHERS1 (Rod Hutchinson 63m)	BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 1 (Mark Hagger 27m)
SUTHERLAND SHARKS ..2 (Monte Pfrengle 49m/66m pen)	BANKSTOWN CITY4 (Steven Dimitrievski 14m, Colin Luff 23m, Goce Trposki 42m, Freddy Umlil 45m)
BELCONNEN BD2 (Steve Lazzari 5m, Shane Lyons 55m)	LEICHHARDT TIGERS3 (Derek Poimer 3m/14m, Jeremy Brown 63m)
CENTRAL COAST1 (Mick Williams 29m)	ST GEORGE SAINTS1 (Jade Permall 37m)
C'BURY M'VILLE OLY0	BONNYRIGG WE1 (Shane Knight 13m)
PARRAMATTA EAGLES ..4 (Daniel Kukucka 11m, Glenn Sprod 22m, Danial Cummins 45m, Ben Delicata 74m)	FAIRFIELD BULLS1 (Marc Hoenselaars 76m)

UNDER 19

C'BURY-M'VILLE OLY1	BONNYRIGG WE1
CENTRAL COAST4	ST GEORGE SAINTS1
SUTHERLAND SHARKS ..3	BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS ...1
PENRITH PANTHERS ...2	BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 0
BELCONNEN BD2	LEICHHARDT TIGERS1
PARRAMATTA EAGLES ..3	FAIRFIELD BULLS1

TABLES

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	10	9	1	0	28	8	28
Leichhardt Tigers	10	7	2	1	19	12	23
Parramatta Eagles	10	7	0	3	30	13	21
Fairfield Bulls	10	5	2	3	15	19	17
Blacktown City	10	5	1	4	24	17	16
Belconnen Blue Devils	10	5	1	4	22	15	16
Bankstown City Lions	10	4	3	3	18	22	15
Central Coast Coasties	10	2	3	5	8	20	9
Penrith Panthers	10	1	5	4	13	16	8
Canterbury Marrickville	10	2	2	6	11	19	8
Sutherland Sharks	10	1	1	8	10	23	4
St George Saints	10	0	3	7	6	20	3

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Coast Coasties	10	8	1	1	28	6	25
Leichhardt Tigers	10	7	1	2	21	7	22
Blacktown City Demons	10	6	1	3	17	12	19
Parramatta Eagles	10	6	1	3	15	11	19
Fairfield Bulls	10	4	3	3	18	17	15
Belconnen Blue Devils	10	4	2	4	24	21	14
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	10	4	1	5	14	19	13
Penrith Panthers	10	3	3	4	13	13	12
Canterbury Marrickville	9	2	3	4	13	15	9
St George Saints	9	2	2	5	6	19	8
Sutherland Sharks	10	2	0	8	14	26	6
Bankstown City Lions	10	2	0	8	6	23	6

TOP SCORERS

11	Jimmy Aschner (Bonnyrigg White Eagles)
8	Daniel Macor (Belconnen Blue Devils)
8	Anthony Mondello (Parramatta Eagles)
8	Jim Bakis (Parramatta Eagles)
7	Goce Trposki (Bankstown City Lions)
7	Rod Hutchinson (Penrith Panthers)

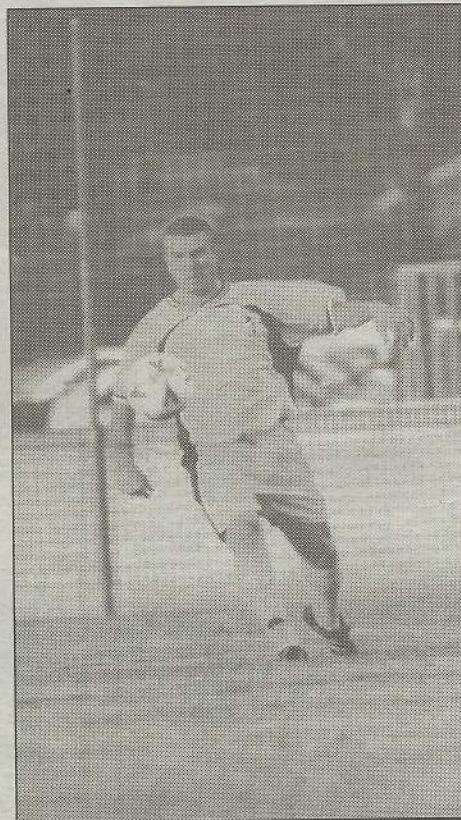
Sutherland Sharks in Action



Alen Stajcic



Jamie Danaskos



Kire Joveski



Ambrose Mancia



NSW Premier League



2002 OCEANIA UNDER 16 TOURNAMENT



JANUARY 15-24, 2002

VALENTINE SPORTS PARK, GLENWOOD

HOME OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES SOCCER FEDERATION

THE DRAW



GROUND NO	DATE	MATCH NO	KICK OFF TIME	POOL	TEAM A	TEAM B	GROUND NO	DATE	MATCH NO	KICK OFF TIME	POOL	TEAM A	TEAM B
2	15th Jan	1	2:30	A	Samoa	Cook Islands	2	21st Jan	21	6:00	A	AUSTRALIA	Tonga
2	15th Jan	2	4:30	A	Solomon Is	AUSTRALIA	2	21st Jan	22	4:00	A	Cook Is.	Solomon Is.
	15th Jan			A	Tonga	Bye		21st Jan			A	Samoa	Bye
1	15th Jan	3	1:45	B	PNG	New Caledonia	1	21st Jan	23	2:00	B	Vanuatu	New Caledonia
1	15th Jan	4	3:45	B	Vanuatu	A. Samoa	1	21st Jan	24	4:00	B	N. Zealand	PNG
1	15th Jan	5	5:45	B	Fiji	New Zealand	1	21st Jan	25	6:00	B	A. Samoa	Fiji
1	16th Jan	6	6:00	A	Samoa	Solomon Is.	1	22nd Jan	27	2:00	11th	6th placed	Local Youth Side
1	16th Jan	7	4:00	A	Tonga	Cook Islands					Pool B		
	16th Jan			A	AUSTRALIA	Bye	1	22nd Jan	28	4:00	9th/10th	5th placed	5th placed
2	16th Jan	8	2:00	B	A. Samoa	New Zealand					Pool A	Pool B	
2	16th Jan	9	4:00	B	Fiji	New Caledonia	1	22nd Jan	29	6:00	S/F 4	3rd placed	4th placed
2	16th Jan	10	6:00	B	PNG	Vanuatu					Pool A	Pool B	
	17th Jan		REST		DAY		2	22nd Jan	30	2:00	S/F 3	3rd placed	4th placed
2	18th Jan	11	6:00	A	Cook Is.	AUSTRALIA					Pool B	Pool A	
2	18th Jan	12	4:00	A	Tonga	Samoa	2	22nd Jan	31	4:00	S/F 2	1st placed	2nd placed
	18th Jan			A	Solomon Is.	Bye					Pool A	Pool B	
1	18th Jan	13	4:00	B	PNG	Fiji	2	22nd Jan	32	6:00	S/F 1	1st placed	2nd placed
1	18th Jan	14	6:00	B	N. Zealand	Vanuatu					Pool B	Pool A	
1	18th Jan	15	2:00	B	N. Caledonia	A. Samoa		23rd Jan		REST		DAY	
1	19th Jan	16	6:00	A	Solomon Is.	Tonga							
1	19th Jan	17	4:00	A	AUSTRALIA	Samoa							
	19th Jan			A	Cook Is.	Bye							
2	19th Jan	18	6:00	B	Vanuatu	Fiji							
2	19th Jan	19	4:00	B	A. Samoa	PNG							
2	19th Jan	20	2:00	B	N. Caledonia	New Zealand							
	20th Jan		REST		DAY								

NOTE: THE FINAL DAY OF MATCHES IS ON THE 24TH OF JANUARY 2002
DETAILS WILL BE RELEASED SHORTLY

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NSW Premier League



Bankstown City 4 Sutherland Sharks 2

By Greg Stock

Bankstown City continued their push towards the Premier League Top Five, scoring a convincing 4-2 win over Sutherland at Seymour Shaw Park last Saturday night.

In complete control of the contest for the first forty-five minutes, the Lions took the game well out of reach for the Sharks, with four unanswered goals, before running the game down in the second half for a comfortable result.

With midfielder Robert Angievski a constant menace early, the Lions were 1-0 up after 14 minutes, when Steve Dimitrievski landed a right-footed solo shot from 25 yards.

Striker Colin Luff beat the offside trap to squeak one home in the 23rd minute and when Goce Trposki found the net in the 42nd minute, the game was all but over as a contest.



Colin Luff is nearing his best with three goals in his last two games for Bankstown.

Freddy Umlil really rubbed the Sharks noses in it when he met a cross from Trposki with the last kick of the half to leave the home side languishing at 4-0 down.

But to their credit Sutherland never gave in and was a different side after the break. Halftime substitute Monte Pfrengle wasted no time getting himself on the scoresheet, when he made the most of some space just outside the penalty box to nail his side's first, and backed that up with a penalty in the 66th minute when striker Jamie Danaskos was brought down in the penalty box.

But it was too little too late, for the Sharks who really struggled to match it with Bankstown. With two wins from their past three starts, the Lions are starting to hit some form and with new coach Ljube Jancev at the helm they are improving with every start.

Sutherland Sharks 2 (M. Pfrengle 49, 66pen)
Bankstown City 4 (Dimitrievski 14, Luff 23, Trposki 42, Umlil 45)

Sutherland Sharks: Mitchell Blowes, Alen Stajcic, David O'Han, Ben Short, Dean Heffernan, Jamie Danaskos (Alex Pfrengle 77), Steve Cklamovski, Kris Karanasos, Kire Josevski, Bill Petrovski (Monte Pfrengle 46), Sam LaMacchia (Colin McAusland 71)

Bankstown City Lions: Zlatko Josevski, Richard Luksic, Paul Wearne, Goce Trposki (Adam Mammoliti 67), Alex Trposki, Freddy Umlil, Damien Luksic, Colin Luff, Steven Dimitrievski, Dong Ki-Kim (Anthony Kanaan 76), Robert Angievski (George Issa 46)

Cautions: Angievski (bcl) 24, Wearne (bcl) 84

Referee: Craig Pearce

Assistant Referees: Andrew Kay and Terry Goodhew

Fourth Official: Peter Vrtkovski



Penrith Panthers 1 Blacktown City 1

By Claire Killeen

Poor execution and miscommunication cost both sides a win in the 1-1 draw between Penrith Panthers and Blacktown City Demons at Andrews Road Field on Saturday night.

Both teams played effectively and made room for scoring opportunities, yet the Panthers and Demons lacked the conversion power to blow the opponents off the park.

Blacktown City was the first to finally get through the defence and lead the game. In the 27th minute some fancy footwork and good ball skills enabled Paul Dee to find Mark Hagger in front of the goal and place the Demons on the board.

Dee on the western side of the field powered the ball to Hagger to slot it into the back of the net with a right foot shot.

From this the Panthers went on the counter-attack and nearly found the net to draw it even yet



Rod Hutchinson scored his seventh goal of the season to secure a point for Penrith.

the goal was averted with some scrambling defence by the Demons.

Both teams came out from half time looking hungry and wanting to attack its opponent.

In the cool conditions for a summer's evening, the Panthers managed to save the game from the jaws of defeat to be awarded with a free kick with about 20 minutes to go.

In the 63rd minute, Rod Hutchinson took the kick close to the box. He fired the ball to the right hand side with goalkeeper John Crawley saving the goal but not being able to secure the ball.

Hutchinson leaped at the opportunity and slotted the ball into the right hand side of the goal with Crawley still on the ground and unable to get to his feet.

The last 20 minutes was clouded with an injury to Tim O'Connell. The valued player for the Panthers was stretched off the field with an injury to his leg.

It is expected he will recover but will undergo x-rays to clear him of any serious damage.

The game produced many players who showed they could be utilised all over the park. Dee and Naoki Imaya were good for the Demons with Hutchinson and Luke O'Connell standing tall for the Panthers.

Penrith 1 (Hutchinson, 63rd)
Blacktown 1 (Hagger, 27th)

Penrith Panthers: Taylor, Giometti, Wells (Gardiner), Marosevic, Hutchinson, Luke O'Connell, Scjerrras, Tim O'Connell (Hinton), Noble, McCaffery (Ali), Boyd.

Blacktown City Demons: Crawley, Willard, Langan, Dee, Rastall, Imaya, Nikas (Donev), Riches, Reid, Hagger, Gatt.

Referee: Jonathon Streater

Assist Ref: Jim Barnes

Assist Ref: Robert Kofler

4th Official: Wayne Lenardon



Belconnen BD 2 Leichhardt Tigers 3

By Gary Vandeburg

The Belconnen Blue Devils six match unbeaten run came to an end on Saturday night when the second placed Leichhardt Tigers scored a 3-2 victory at West Belconnen Sports Ground.

The Tigers certainly were feeling no ill effect from the bus trip to Canberra and they looked sharp from the kick off and they opened the scoring after just three minutes.

Jeremy Brown's cross from the right fell to Derek Poimer who was standing between two Blue Devils defenders; his mis-timed volley from close range gave the Tigers a 1-0 lead.

It took the Blue Devils two minutes to draw level. Stephen Kemp's free kick from 35 metres out and near the sideline was met with a glancing header by Steve Lazzari to make it 1-1.

In the 14th minute the Tigers regained their advantage when Poimer was allowed to run across the edge of the penalty area and shot into the bottom

left corner to give the Tigers a 2-1 lead.

In the second half the Blue Devils started to gain some of the ascendancy and they were rewarded with a second goal ten minutes after the break.

Again it came from a Kemp free kick, which was poorly cleared to Shane Lyons. His first time volley from just inside the penalty area rocketed into the top of the net to make it 2-2.

The Blue Devils had a chance to take the lead three minutes later. An exchange of passes between Lazzari, Danny Macor, and Stewart Camara saw the Tigers defence finally open up and Lazzari found space, but his shot was brilliantly blocked from close range by Tigers' keeper Andrew Crews.

In the 63rd minute and somewhat against the run of play the Tigers made it 3-2. Ryan Jones crossed from the left to Brown who headed over Blue Devils' keeper Tony Giannasca who was stranded off his line.

Nine minutes later Poimer should have had his hat trick. After easily opening up the Blue Devils defence he only had Giannasca to beat, but the keeper made an outstanding save with his feet to

give the Blue Devils some home of snatching a late draw.

However, in the final minutes as the Blue Devils pushed forward in search of an equaliser they continually turned possession over and Leichhardt scored a well deserved 3-2 victory.

Belconnen Blue Devils 2 (Lazzari 5, Lyons 55)
Leichhardt Tigers 3 (Poimer 3/14, Brown 63)

Belconnen Blue Devils: Giannasca, Popovich, Cachia (Dowling 45), Zwangobani, Purdue, Lyons, Kemp (D Camara 69), Katz (Arranz 45), Lazzari, Macor, S Camara

Leichhardt Tigers: Crews, Kethel, Livingstone, Galluzzo (Falas 77), Stubbs-Mills, Karavatakis, La Rocca, Brown, Jones, Tesoro (Moric 73), Poimer (Lal 87)

Referee: Bill Simeonovic

Assistant Referees: Les O'Donoghue and Stephen Jones

Fourth Official: Phil Grabham



Tiger new boy, Derek Poimer, could fire the Tigers to a Premiership.



NSW Premier League



C'bury-M'ville

0



Bonnyrigg WE

1

By Robbie Bartolillo

The undefeated White Eagles comprehensively outplayed the lacklustre Berries, in a match, which in reality should've seen the five point competition leaders win by a greater margin.

From the outset, there were ominous signs for the Berries, who employed the dangerous tactic of defending in numbers, attempting to score via a counter attack. In the 13th minute, proceeding a near miss by Chris Bradley, Bonnyrigg's Shane Knight remained composed and calmly slotted a left footed shot past Berries' keeper Les Bihari, after some innovating lead up work by team-mates Jim Aschner and Robbie Gomez.

Then almost immediately from the ensuing kick-off, the White Eagles displayed their supreme confidence, coming desperately close to scoring a superb team goal, which involved Devrim Huseyin, Chris Bradley and Michael Hawrysiuk.

In the 27th minute, Hawrysiuk emphasised his explosive ability, rounding two players and thun-

dering a 30 metre power drive, only to be denied by the cross bar. By this stage, Berries' keeper Bihari was no doubt dreading the remaining 60 minutes, having to constantly defy Bonnyrigg's attacking onslaughts, outlining his outstanding shot stopping ability, on at least 10 occasions.

The second stanza witnessed a similar pattern, with the enthusiastic White Eagles eager to consolidate on their one goal lead. But they would again find resistance in Bihari, who repelled a further eight attempts, most of which derived from attacking partners Aschner and Gomez, who penetrated the opposition's defence with consummate ease. Such was the Eagles dominance, that all but 'keeper Necevski had possible scoring chances.

Coach Greg Woodhouse was relatively pleased with his team's performance.

"Not a bad result although we should have scored more. Although other teams have all watched us play now, and figured the best way to play us is to sit and defend", he said.

Canterbury 0
Bonnyrigg 1 (Knight 13')

Canterbury: Les Bihari, Greg Collins (Yellow in 64th), Christian Ortiz, John Manolopoulos (yellow card in 8th minute), Andy Amegashie, Aheleas Kotsopoulos, John Pillemer, Nihad Alemeic (74th Huseyin Bayhan), Emmanuel Papageorgiou (45th Yane Talcevski), Anthony Uchino, Angelo Markopoulos

Bonnyrigg: Ivan Necevski, Sasha Utjesenovic, Devrim Huseyin, Vuko Tomasevic, John Kyriazopoulos (70th Johnny Ghiso), Shane Knight, David Harding, Chris Bradley, Michael Hawrysiuk, Jim Aschner, Robbie Gomez.

Referee: Nick Asargiotis

Assistant Referees: Jim Nicolaou & Peter Verinder

4th Official: Srebre Delovski



Top quality. Bonnyrigg star, Devrim Huseyin.



Parramatta Eagles 4

Fairfield Bulls 1

1

By Greg Stock

Parramatta Eagles fans were in a mood to celebrate after watching their side put the cleaners through a disappointing Bulls outfit on Sunday evening.

It was billed as a tussle for the Top Five with third against fourth but sadly for the large crowd, the match was more of a fizzer than a contest, with the Eagles completely dominating proceedings from start to finish.

With striker Daniel Kukucka leading the way, the home side were no match for the Bulls, using their pace and skill all across the park to cut the visitors to pieces.

The former Parramatta Power striker wasted no time getting himself on the scoreboard, when he left goalkeeper Frank Mikuletic floundering in the 11th minute, as he latched onto a Geoff Howarth through ball to beat the advancing 'keeper at the near post.



Parramatta Eagles' Glenn Sprod.

He set another one up in the 23rd minute firing in a cross to an unmarked Glenn Sprod, to make it 2-0 blowing the game wide open.

Fairfield midfielder Adam Snyder was then given an early shower by referee Greg Leverton a minute later, and with him went all hope of a Bulls resurgence. Snyder went in harshly on Parramatta goalkeeper Jason Holmes as he attempted to chase down a loose ball in the box earning the ire of the referee and a vocal home crowd.

Always willing to exploit the numerical advantage, the Eagles machine rolled on. Daniel Cummins scored a beautiful solo effort late in the first half, and the points were all but in the bag.

The second half was a mere formality with both sides literally going through the motions. Ben Delicata took the score to 4-0 when he beat the off-side trap and goalkeeper Mikuletic in a solo run in the 74th minute, before the Bulls got a consolation effort through Marc Hoenselaars two minutes later.

Parramatta Eagles 4 (Kukucka 11' Sprod 23' Cummins 45' Delicata 74')
Fairfield Bulls 1 (Hoenselaars 76')

Parramatta Eagles: Jason Holmes, Geoff Dwyer, Malcolm Meilak, Mirko Jurilj, Daniel Kukucka (Jimmy Bakis 74'), Glenn Sprod (Daniel Borg 69'), Paul O' Grady, Ben Delicata, Geoff Howarth, Daniel Cummins (Mark Milligan 88'), Mark Reveley

Fairfield Bulls: Frank Mikuletic, Mathew Dihm, Paul Bourke, Paul Richardson (Patrick Darvill 74'), Ray Younis, Marc Hoenselaars, Mathew Borg, Tom Maric, Adam Snyder, Andy Ravanello, Leo Carle (Richard Harrison 74')

Cautions: O'Grady (pe) 19' Richardson (fb) 25' Delicata (pe) 38' Younis (fb) 38'

Sent Off: Snyder (fb) 23'

Referee: Greg Leverton

Assistant Referees: Ernest Horvath and David Finlay

Fourth Official: Michael Johnson



Central Coast

1



St George Saints

1

By Ray Sandell

Coasties finally returned to Plum Park to take on bottom placed St. George and to try and end their four match run of losses and they did... just!

To be truthful the best thing about this match was the new, lush Plum Park pitch, which is now close to being the best in the Premier League.

Coasties' Coach, Dale Eggleton, made a few surprise selections in his starting lineup, dropping Adam Peatey and Sean Matthews to the bench and bringing in promising under 19 captain Marc Falzon and giving Mitchell Daley a start after a few games as substitute.

The first half started off reasonably, with both teams feeling one another out and trying to see the other's weaknesses, and both teams had plenty!

Dane Hokin, Peter Preston and Falzon showed early promise for the Coasties whilst Jade Permall, Spyros Kladis and Angelo Petratos were playing well for the Saints.

The first real action came after twenty minutes when Hokin received a yellow card for an over

aggressive tackle on an opponent. One minute later Peter Leary put a long ball across field to Preston who flicked on to Mick Williams and with only the Saints

Coasties 1 (Williams 29')
Saints 1 (Permall 37')

COASTIES: Collits, Daley, Hokin, Leary, Falzon, Ritchie, Clark, Preston (Matthews), Smith (Peatey), Williams, Freeman

ST. GEORGE: Alogdellis, Bolianitis, Petratos, Sevares, Markopoulos (Bariamis), Permall, Campbell, Kladis, Maglis, Codmani (Verrender), Damjanovic (Beddoni)

Cautions: Coasties: Hokin, Clark; St George: Permall, Kladis.

Referee: Kevin Humphreys

Assistant Referees: Peter Gibbs, Warren Jacobs

Fourth Official: Michael Collins

'keeper to beat shot straight at him!

Five minutes later Williams made amends when Falzon lost the ball in a tackle, quickly retrieved it, put a cross field pass to Damien Smith who lobbed on to Williams and he left Stacy Alogdellis stranded with a memorable header from ten metres.

Coasties had scored at last and what a great goal it was!! Two minutes later Falzon put Karl Freeman through but Alogdellis was too quick for him and saved the day for the Saints. Up the other end

Brad Campbell sent Permall on his way but the Saints striker shot over the bar from five metres. Two minutes later it was his turn to make amends when Nabil Codmani put over a great cross from the right and Permall side footed into the net for the equaliser. The score remained unchanged at the half time break and it looked like we might have a game on our hands, but how wrong we were!

To be truthful the second half was memorable for only two things! Firstly, the battle of the "peroxided blondes", Jade Permall and Mitchell Daley, who were not only trying to outdo one another on the field but also with the colour of their hair. Permall probably just edged out Daley on the field but Daley won the "blond" battle with his hair a shade whiter than his opponent!

The second memory was the general very poor standard of finishing by both teams, not to forget the equally poor standard of play. The strikers, of both teams, appeared to have organised a competition amongst themselves to see who could miss the target by the greatest distance over the bar and like the final

result this ended in a draw!

Two things came out of this game. For the Coasties, the performance of Marc Falzon indicated they have yet another young star in the making, and for both teams, forget about the finals, go looking for strikers who can score goals!!!

In the under 19 match the Coasties, even without their captain, were much too good for the Saints and have shot away to a three point lead in the competition.

How come the Coasties can produce all these good young players but still find it hard in first grade?



Coasties' goal-scorer, Mick Williams.

'Spanish League, The Best'

International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) named the Spanish Premier Division (Primera Division) the strongest world-wide league of 2001 last week.

The world's best national

championship is determined from 1991 with the consideration of the achievements of the country's team in the international soccer scene in the last 12 months.

The positions of the 3 best leagues has not changed since last year, except the

increased gap of the Italian Serie A (2nd place) from the English Premier League (3rd spot).

According to IFFHS, the title of the best South American League still possesses the Argentina Primera Division, like last year.

List of the world's best national championships:

1. Spain 1,267.0 pts
2. England 1,176.0
3. Italy 1,013.0
4. Germany 976.0
5. Argentina 964.0
6. Brazil 942.0
7. France 799.0
8. Portugal 765.0
9. Netherlands 713.5
10. Greece 691.5
11. Scotland 687.5
12. Colombia 669.0
13. Mexico 658.5
14. Belgium 641.0
15. Turkey 603.0

Boro target Dwight Yorke

Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren has inquired about the availability of Manchester United's unsettled Trinidadian international striker Dwight Yorke.

McClaren, who coached Yorke when he was assistant to Sir Alex Ferguson at Old Trafford, has made a tentative inquiry about Yorke in a bid to boost an attack that has scored just 19 goals in 20 Premiership matches this season.

"I know Dwight very well and I know what a great player he is and what a great acquisition he would be for Middlesbrough," McClaren said.

"It's just a tentative inquiry at the moment and it's gone no further.

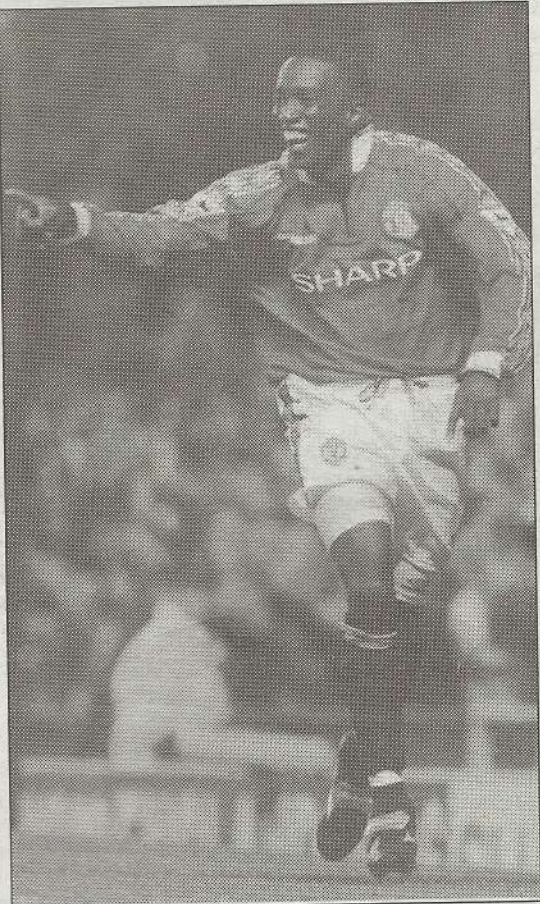
"It's really just a question of weighing up the options, seeing what's out there and with the restrictions we've got at the club at the moment, making funds available — which is difficult."

The 30-year-old former Aston Villa striker has struggled to command a regular first-team place at United this season.

The English Premiership champions sold Andy Cole to Blackburn Rovers last month but the rumoured arrivals of Paolo Di Canio from West Ham and Argentine Diego Forlan from Independiente could spell the end of his three-and-a-half-year stay at Old Trafford.



Steve McClaren: Middlesbrough manager.



Dwight Yorke: Lured by Middlesbrough.

EXTRA POLICE FOR ENGLISH FANS

England's World Cup fixtures will be the most heavily policed in Japan — because of the country's reputation for hooliganism.

Ko Yamaguchi of the Japanese Organising Committee, said: "We would expect that around 500-700 police will be operating very high levels of security at England's matches."

"There will be more police at England matches than at other games in the finals but I cannot give the exact number of police on duty at those other matches."

"We are well aware of the reputation of England's fans and we have been told 800 known hooligans will be banned from the leaving the UK."

England play all three first round ties in Japan, against Sweden, Argentina and Nigeria.

Heart scare for Eriksson's deputy

England assistant boss Tord Grip spent a night in hospital last week after suffering a heart scare.

Grip, who is England boss Sven Goran Eriksson's right-hand man, spent a night under observation at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital after complaining of illness.

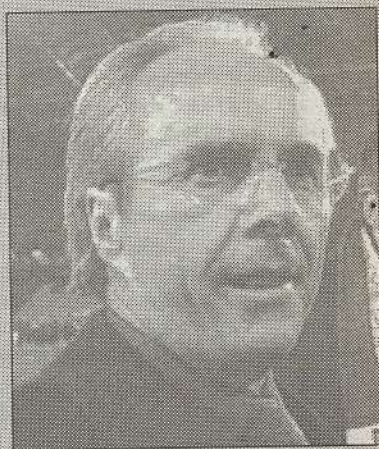
The Swede's condition is not regarded as serious by hospital staff, but he will undergo further tests after being released later in the week.

Grip began to feel unwell as he travelled to the Football Association's headquarters in Soho Square and The FA's chief medical officer Dr John Crane examined him when he arrived and sent him to the hospital for further examination.

"Tord was kept in hospital overnight for observation and as a precaution, but we are told his condition is not serious," said FA spokesman Adrian Bevington.

"He felt ill on his way to the office so Dr Crane took a look at him. Then he went to hospital where he spent the afternoon having tests."

"Adam Crozier, the FA's chief executive, has been to visit him."



Sven Eriksson: England coach.

The health scare raises questions over Grip's involvement in England's World Cup preparation for Japan and South Korea as he may be told to take a rest to recover his full health.

Grip becomes the second big name in football in England this season to suffer a heart problem following Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier's heart operation in October.

URUGUAYAN REF AXED FROM WORLD CUP

A Uruguayan referee designated to officiate at this year's World Cup finals has been ruled out of the competition after being found guilty of corruption by his national federation.

Jorge Larionda and four other referees — Gustavo Mendez, Oliver Viera, Carlos Lopez

and Fernando Cresci — were stripped of their status as international referees for six months after a three-month investigation into the allegations of corruption.

The Uruguayan federation (AUF) issued a warning to five other referees after the investigation.

Voila woes leave Yugoslav star in limbo

Lazio's Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic has had his transfer to Fiorentina put on hold after being told the Florence club was not able to sign any contracts.

Mihajlovic had agreed a deal to join the Serie A strugglers and was expected to train with his new team mates after completing the formalities of his transfer.

But he was left in limbo after Luciano Luna, chief administrator of the cash-strapped club, said he was not willing to sign any contracts for new players until the club's debts were dealt with.

"I can't and I don't intend to aggravate further the debt situation of the club by taking on new obligations for the club," Luna said in a statement.

Luna, who is running the club on behalf of troubled owner Vittorio Cecchi Gori, had said last week that Fiorentina would not be able to make any reinforcements to the injury-ravaged squad.

That announcement led to coach Roberto Mancini hinting that he could quit after angry fans protested his side's 3-1 home defeat to

Perugia on Sunday, which left Fiorentina next to bottom of Serie A at the half-way stage.

But after Cecchi Gori assured him that there would be cash for new players, Mancini tied up a deal for Mihajlovic on Tuesday and also looked set to make a fresh effort to sign Inter Milan's Brazilian striker Adriano on loan.

Fiorentina's perilous financial situation has

dogged their season and they were unable to pay player's wages for the first three months of the campaign.

Cecchi Gori has been urged to sell the club by fan groups and local politicians but has sent out mixed signals of his intentions and his indecision added to the air of confusion surrounding the club.

Should the Mihajlovic deal fall through it

would be the second time this season that Fiorentina failed to keep an agreement to sign a Lazio player.

During the close season another Lazio Yugoslav international Dejan Stankovic, was officially unveiled as a Fiorentina player but had to return to Lazio after Cecchi Gori admitted there was no cash for the deal.

HADJI BLASTS MOROCCAN SELECTION

Aston Villa midfielder Moustapha Hadji has seemingly brought the curtain down on his international career, after he launched a scathing attack on the Moroccan squad.

The 30-year-old playmaker was not included in the African Nations' Cup squad by coach Humberto Coelho and Hadji has claimed that he has been forced out of the international scene.

"There is a cliqueish atmosphere in the squad," he said.

"It is a really sour atmosphere and when I arrived I felt that I was a considered like a foreigner."

Hadji has been constantly attacked in the Moroccan press since missing a World Cup qualifier against Algeria in May.

The former African player of the year also took a lot of personal criticism in July, when

Senegal narrowly edged past Morocco to stake a claim in the World Cup finals.

Hadji, though, has hit back and blamed other members of the international squad for the exclusion of him and his brother Youssuf.

"It isn't really done that other members of the squad stab us in the back," he said.

"Youssuf did not turn down being selected, he was deprived of it."

Veron warns Beckham

Juan Sebastian Veron has warned Manchester United teammate David Beckham to improve his self-control before England meet Argentina in the World Cup this summer.

"I know Beckham wants revenge on us, but I have told him to settle down because, if he is too nervous, he could get sent off again, just like in France," said the Argentina midfielder.

Beckham was dismissed in the second-round clash between the sides in 1998 for kicking out at Diego Simeone. England's ten men held out through extra-time for a 2-2 draw, but were eliminated on penalties.

The re-match is on June 7



Juan Veron

and Veron believes Argentina have the attacking flare to emerge victorious again.

"We will prepare ourselves properly for every match, but against England we have a powerful weapon - Gabriel Batistuta and Hernan Crespo in attack.

"Not many teams have two forwards who score as many goals as we do, but besides that, I think that we must be careful and keep our humility. Nothing is won before the first whistle.

"We have a very good squad, we are united and we have the correct experience to know how to do things right."

Beckham admitted after the draw last year in Busan, South Korea, that beating Argentina meant a lot to him. "You always want to test yourself against the best and there is no question that we are in a highly competitive group," he said.

"They (Argentina, Sweden and Nigeria) are three very different teams with very different styles. But personally I can't wait for June 7 - it's a great chance to lay the ghost of 1998."

Blatter seeks second term

Sepp Blatter has announced that he will stand for re-election as FIFA president.

The 65-year-old, who was first elected in June 1998, claimed he has the backing of more than 100 national associations across all six FIFA confederations.

"I take this as an important vote of confidence, for which I am, hugely grateful in every way," he said during an address at the Football Expo in Cannes.

"It demonstrates that the dialogue between the national associations and the FIFA president, developed by the programmes co-ordinated by FIFA and the personal contacts established since my election, is a most highly regarded form of co-operation."

Blatter faced the possibility of a vote of no-confidence last year over the running of the finances of FIFA and, in particular, the collapse of



Sepp Blatter

sports marketing company ISL.

ISL was one of two organisations to which FIFA had sold the TV rights to the 2002 World Cup.

However, he survived after making a rousing speech at the annual FIFA congress in Argentina last July, during which he promised a public audit of the football governing body's books.

The election will take place on 28-29 May at this year's FIFA congress in Seoul.



Brazilian Soccer ace Ronaldo and young Brazilian actor Giovanni Delgado with a Soccer ball on the steps of the Trevi fountain, in Rome, while filming a TV commercials for Tim mobile phone company.

Gaddafi buys \$28m stake in Juventus

Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi has paid \$28 million to take a major stake in Juventus.

The investment makes him the club's second largest shareholder behind the Agnelli family, owners of Fiat, who have done business with the colonel in the past.

The investment could be a gift to the colonel's son Al Saadi, a big fan of Juventus, and president of the Al Itihad football team. Gaddafi may also be

looking for Juventus to help Libya qualify for the next World Cup.

Eugenio Bersellini was recently sacked as Libya boss but they have appointed another Italian in Franco Scoglio to succeed him.

Lafico has a long history of backing the Agnelli, who retain 63 per cent in Juventus. Gaddafi took a near 10 per cent stake in Fiat in the 1970s as president Gianni battled surging petrol prices.

"He has got petrol-dollars to invest

and we need them," Agnelli explained at the time. "Now we have a possibility to contain the petrol price."

The idea was that, if oil-producing nations like Libya had a major stake in western businesses, they would have an interest in keeping fuel prices down.

Fiat bought the shares back ten years later, giving Gaddafi a \$30 million profit, but Agnelli remained thankful to the Libyan leader for helping Fiat out in a period of difficulty.

SOUTH AFRICA EYES 2010 WORLD CUP HOSTING

Danny Jordaan, South African football supremo has his eyes firmly fixed on hosting the 2010 World Cup finals following FIFA president Sepp Blatter's

announcement that the African continent will host the tournament in eight years.

"We have a very good chance to host 2010," said Jordaan, only hours after

Blatter's declaration. Jordaan said they had learned from their unsuccessful bid to host the 2006 World Cup, losing out to Germany.

He said the experience would be vital in their cam-

paign for the 2010 tournament.

But Jordaan admitted that it will not be plain sailing.

"We will not be the only country. Morocco will almost certainly run. Tunisia has been mentioned and there is talk also that Egypt will make a bid," said Jordaan, here for the Football Expo trade show.

The confirmation that Africa will host 2010 is certain to be head of the agenda when the Confederation of African Football (CAF) meets in Mali next week before the start of the African Nations Cup.

"CAF has a high responsibility. After nearly 100 years of football history in African

this will be the first World Cup on the continent. CAF's most important priority is to make sure 2010 is a huge success," stressed Jordaan.

He added that CAF must set a high benchmark for any bidding country.

"We have to measure up both in theory and in fact," he said.

Jordaan remains convinced that South Africa is the only country south of the Sahara capable of hosting a World Cup.

"We are the only nation to have already hosted world events. There is a history there that is clearly lacking in the rest of the continent," he said.

MAN UTD CLOSE-IN ON FORLAN

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson was last week locked in transfer talks with Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan, the Daily Mirror reported.

The Red Devils have begun negotiations with Forlan's Argentine club Independiente and are close to completing the deal.

In addition, United have increased to \$6 million, an offer for West Ham striker Paolo Di Canio which would spell the end of Dwight Yorke's Old Trafford career.

Independiente officials confirmed that a bid of around \$4.5 million had been made and vice-president Fernando Sciacaluga said: "We have been approached by Manchester United and agents representing them. We should know the result of these discussions in the next few days and decide whether Forlan stays or goes."

The deal has been delayed by the problems with the Argentinian economy.

Independiente have to sell because of their own financial position and Forlan is their major asset. Lazio have also expressed their interest in the forward, but United's bid is the biggest.

The 22-year-old Uruguayan has revealed that he wants to come to England and he would probably settle for around \$1 million a year.

He also has an EC passport so he will not face a delay in applying for a work permit.

Maradona to tackle Uruguay

Soccer legend Diego Maradona will travel to Uruguayan famous resort Punta del Este by a private plane to take part in a fourth friendly between Argentinean and Uruguayan retired players.

The tickets are to cost 20 pesos, and the income will be donated to charity funds.

Fernando Moreno, Antonio Alzamendi, Ruben Paz, Juan Ramon Carrasco,

Sebastian Abreu as well as the tennis player Diego Perez will represent the Uruguayan side.

The Argentinean team is made up of the players such as Hugo Gatti, Mario Kempes, Mauricio Macri and Alejandro Gravier. Hugo Gatti's son Federico, playing for Argentinos Juniors, will also participate in the friendly.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo (in Rome)

The last time Italy celebrated a World Cup victory was of course in 1982. As a kid, who watched on television on a hot summer's night and then danced in the streets with everyone else here in this country, it was a moment to remember.

Italy came alive after an extremely slow start drawing all three of their group matches against Poland, Peru and Cameroon.

However, then came victories over Argentina 2-1, over Brazil 3-2 thanks to a Paolo Rossi hat-trick, 2-0 over Poland, again thanks to a Rossi double, and finally 3-1 over West Germany in the final in Madrid.

Who could ever forget that final nearly 20 years ago? 0-0 at half time, Antonio Cabrini had missed a penalty for Italy in the first half, then goals from Rossi, Marco Tardelli and Alessandro Altobelli. For the record West Germany did score a late goal thanks to Paul Breitner.

So is this current team as good as the team of 20 years ago? Always a difficult task to sit and pontificate about teams and eras but let's try.

In 1982 the coach was Enzo Bearzot, a legend, and today it is Giovanni Trapattoni. In 1982 Trapattoni was in charge of a star-studded Juventus team that fielded six out of the eleven players that started in that final: Cabrini, Gentile, Zoff, Tardelli, Rossi and Scirea. So far so good. Trapattoni is the best in the business.

The goalkeeper in 82 was Zoff, a veteran at 40, and now it is Buffon. On his day Buffon can be brilliant but he has made some very basic mistakes this year for Juventus. On the whole, Zoff was more reliable.

The defence in 82 was legendary with Gentile and Cabrini as markers and Scirea as sweeper. They don't come better than that and Collovati was the fourth defender.

Today it is Maldini, Nesta, Negro and Cannavaro - a formidable back four in anyone's language. So far so good again.

The midfield today is solid, like in 82, with today's star, Tommasi of Roma, still some way short of Tardelli. There are pluses for each team that are unique to that team.

For instance, in 82 a left winger by the name of Bruno Conti was as good as any and today's side has veteran Albertini to support Tommasi. Conti and Albertini are certainly very different players but nevertheless very vital in their own roles.

The playmaker of 82 was Antognoni of Fiorentina, who missed the final through injury, and today's side has Roma's Totti. On a one-on-one basis, Totti is ahead but then again Italy played the final without Antognoni in 82 and his contribution didn't seem to be missed anyway.

Will Roberto Baggio be used in this role with Totti further forward? Most likely not but not because of his form. Baggio remains, by a long way, the greatest player to ever play for Italy in any era.

Up front in 82 Italy had Rossi and Graziani, and Altobelli was used from the bench. Rossi started slowly but came good in the end, Graziani was always reliable if not spectacular and Altobelli was always class.

Today's stars in Del Piero and Vieri lose nothing in comparison, in fact they are slightly better, and if Inzaghi is fit again, he could be used like Altobelli in 82.

So the overall conclusion is that today's team appears to be better on paper at least.

However, fundamentally there is a major flaw in our assessment. We have compared individuals in their respective positions but this is a team sport and there is a certain 'synergy' that is associated with every team.

In other words, the sum of the components doesn't equal the total value of the team. It is usually more for a great team and the team of 82 was a great team.

For the current team they will need to gel like the team in 82 to have any sort of chance. Their combined efforts as part of the team will be vital if Italy is to finally win another World Cup after 20 years.



Argentinian-born Lazio striker Herman Crespo controls the ball during the match against Piacenza.

Roma fightback in style

ROMA 3
VERONA 2
Serie A leaders Roma recovered from two goals down on Sunday afternoon to beat Verona with a Gabriel Batistuta strike late into injury-time.

Romania forward Adrian Mutu put the visitors in front just before half-time with the first goal by a visiting team to the Stadio Olimpico in 610 minutes, then doubled the advantage as Roma appealed for offside.

Critically, though, Marcos Assuncao pulled a goal back right away with a stunning low shot from 20 yards. And Italy star Antonio Cassano, who had just replaced Marco Delvecchio, set up the grandstand finish with his first Roma strike, a shot on the turn from Cafu's right-wing cross.

VENEZIA 1
JUVENTUS 2
Juventus were also slightly fortuitous winners, sneaking home through a late Mark Iuliano goal

against Venezia.

The Italy defender struck after Federico Magallanes had stunned the Turin giants early in the second period by combining with Filippo Maniero to equalise David Trezeguet's fifth-minute header.

PERUGIA 0
INTER 2
Internazionale stayed just a point behind Roma by defeating Perugia in an evening match stopped intermittently due to fog.

Second-half strikes from Christian Vieri and Alvaro Recoba proved decisive.

CHIEVO 2
FIorentina 2
Fiorentina gained a point at high-flying Chievo with a last-minute strike from Adriano, the teenager signed on loan from Internazionale the previous Friday.

The Viola took a 13th-minute lead through Nuno Gomes, but Eugenio Corini, later sent off, brought Chievo

level from the spot in first-half injury-time. Lorenzo D'Anna appeared to have won it in the 84th minute, before Adriano made his dream start for the troubled Florence outfit.

Fiorentina will however rue the long-term absence of their Portuguese star, Nuno Gomes who picked up a supposedly-bad injury.

AC MILAN 0
BRESCIA 0
AC Milan were held to a goalless draw by Brescia at the San Siro.

ATALANTA 2
BOLOGNA 2
Emanuele Brioschi salvaged a point for Bologna at Atalanta - again deep into time added on.

Bologna lost defender Marcello Castellini when he handled a goal-bound shot on nine minutes and Cristiano Doni increased the agony when he put Atalanta ahead from the spot.

Daniele Berretta, later red-carded for two yellow cards, doubled the lead, before Renato Olive made it 2-1 shortly before the break.

Atalanta lost Damiano Zenoni to injury on 89 minutes, forcing them to finish with nine men, and Brioschi took full advantage.

PARMA 1
LECCE 1

Improving Parma held on to the lead given them by Martin Djetou until the 87th minute at the Ennio Tardini Stadium, when they were eventually pegged back by Lecce star Davor Vugrinec.

PIACENZA 1
LAZIO 0

And another strike from Piacenza forward Dario Hubner, the top scorer in Serie A, ensured more woe for Lazio.

TORINO 3
UDINESE 1

Torino halted their slide by defeating inconsistent Udinese at home.

A Cristiano Lucarelli penalty on 23 minutes - the first successful attempt from the spot at the Delle Alpi in six attempts - was equalised by Vincenzo Iaquinta, but Riccardo Maspero (71) and Locarelli again (83) sealed the points.



This Week (Sunday, January 20)

Brescia vs Torino
Bologna vs Chievo
Fiorentina vs AC Milan
Inter Milan vs Parma
Juventus vs Atalanta
Lazio vs Perugia
Lecce vs Piacenza
Udinese vs AS Roma
Verona vs Venezia

Perugia 0 Inter 2, Roma 3 Verona 2, Chievo 2 Fiorentina 2, Torino 3 Udinese 1, Atalanta 2 Bologna 2, AC Milan 0 Brescia 0, Parma 1 Lecce 1, Piacenza 1 Lazio 0, Venezia 1 Juventus 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Roma	18	11	6	1	28	11	39
Inter	18	11	5	2	33	16	38
Juventus	18	9	7	2	32	14	34
Chievo	17	10	3	4	32	22	33
Milan	18	8	7	3	26	18	31
Bologna	18	8	4	6	17	18	28
Lazio	17	6	7	4	21	13	25
Verona	18	7	4	7	25	27	25
Perugia	18	6	4	8	20	23	22
Atalanta	18	6	4	8	24	31	22
Piacenza	18	6	3	9	24	25	21
Udinese	18	6	3	9	25	31	21
Torino	18	5	5	8	21	24	20
Brescia	18	4	7	7	20	30	19
Parma	18	4	6	8	22	28	18
Lecce	18	4	6	8	19	26	18
Fiorentina	18	4	3	11	20	37	15
Venezia	18	2	4	12	16	31	10



AC Milan's Marco Simone (right) vies with Brescia's Amedeo Mangone at Milan Meazza Stadium.



Manchester United captain Roy Keane (right) vies with Southampton captain Jason Dodd.

Man Utd bounce back

ARSENAL 1 LIVERPOOL 1

Arsenal missed the chance to go joint top and will be annoyed not to have won this game after making most of the few chances and going ahead.

Freddie Ljungberg, who missed a sitter in the first half, made amends in the 61st minute from close range.

Liverpool, who seemed happy to sit back and defend until that goal, equalised seven minutes later when John Arne Riise ran 70 metres to connect with a pinpoint Steven Gerrard pass

S'THAMPTON 1 MAN UTD 3

United claimed their seventh successive league victory to go top for the first time this season but it was hard on Southampton who had much the best of the first half.

James Beattie headed Saints into a third minute lead, Ruud van Nistelrooy equalising soon after.

Southampton then hit the post and skimmed the bar before a David Beckham free kick gave United an undeserved halftime lead.

It was all change after the break, however, with the champions in

charge and securing the points with an Ole Gunnar Solskjaer shot in the 63rd minute.

ASTON VILLA 2 DERBY COUNTY 1

Villa claimed just their second win in 14 games with relative ease.

Darius Vassell put them ahead after 12 minutes after showing great control, but Darryl Powell equalised in the 24th after goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel was caught in possession by Malcolm Christie.

Derby's Francois Grenet was then sent off before Juan Pablo Angel restored Villa's lead with a header in the 26th minute and Villa were in control from then on.

BLACKBURN 4 CHARLTON ATH 1

Tugay Kerimoglu curled the opener for Blackburn after five minutes following good linking play with Andy Cole, who expertly made it two just before halftime with his first league goal for his new club.

Jason Euell pulled one back eight minutes into the second half as Charlton improved, but their chance disappeared once they had Scott Parker sent off in the 64th minute.

Late goals for Craig Hignett and Matt Jansen completed the victory.

EVERTON 1 SUNDERLAND 0

Everton ended a run of five successive league defeats but almost blew a game they should have had wrapped up by halftime.

After missing a series of chances, Everton went ahead in the 27th minute with a goal for former Manchester United winger Jesper Blomqvist.

Kevin Campbell, in his first appearance since October, was one of several players to miss good opportunities for Everton, who totally dominated the first hour with Sunderland only coming alive in the last 20 minutes.

FULHAM 2 M'BROUGH 1

Fulham came from behind to win with record signing Steve Marlet again the hero after Colin Cooper had headed Boro into the lead on eight minutes.

Louis Saha, three minutes after coming on as a substitute, headed the equaliser five minutes before halftime and Marlet, who scored the late equaliser against Wycombe in the FA Cup in mid-week, got the winner in first-half injury time.

BOLTON 2 CHELSEA 2

Another battling display by Bolton, who never looked like going down 5-1 as they did at Stamford Bridge in December.

Henrik Pedersen blazed horribly wide for Bolton from close in after 52 minutes and a minute later they were punished when former Reebok favourite Eidur Gudjohnsen cashed in on a defensive slip to put Chelsea ahead.

Michael Ricketts equalised with his 14th of the season three minutes later. Mikael Forsell restored Chelsea's lead in the 64th

minute from outside the box with virtually his first touch after coming on as a substitute, before Kevin Nolan levelled again 11 minutes from fulltime.

IPSWICH TOWN 2 TOTTENHAM 1

The Ipswich revival continued as they did the double over Spurs.

Marcus Bent headed Ipswich ahead from a corner in the 12th minute, but Serhiy Rebrov set up Gustavo Poyet to thunder in the equaliser in the 58th minute.

John McGreal scrambled in the winner for Ipswich nine minutes from time to make it four wins in five league games and give them a real chance of avoiding the drop.

N'CASTLE UTD 3 LEEDS UTD 1

A table-topping thriller full of action that saw Newcastle return to the top for 24 hours.

Alan Smith fired Leeds ahead after just 29 seconds, but Newcastle levelled in the 44th minute when Michael Duberry headed a Craig Bellamy cross into his own net.

A game full of heavy challenges, legal and otherwise, continued to provide great entertainment and Newcastle went ahead on the hour mark with Kieron Dyer's first goal for a year.

Danny Mills was then sent off before Bellamy capped a great performance with the third goal three minutes from time.

WEST HAM 1 LEICESTER CITY 0

Paolo Di Canio, possibly playing his last game for West Ham ahead of a planned move to Manchester United, lashed them ahead after 36 minutes.

West Ham continued to impress, though bottom club Leicester could have had a point with some better finishing.



Arsenal's French midfielder Robert Pires (left) is challenged by Steven Gerrard of Liverpool.

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd	22	13	3	6	54	32	42
Newcastle United	22	13	3	6	42	29	42
Leeds United	22	11	8	3	34	20	41
Arsenal	21	11	7	3	42	25	40
Liverpool	22	11	6	5	31	23	39
Chelsea	22	8	10	4	35	22	34
Aston Villa	22	8	8	6	29	27	32
Tottenham Hotspur	22	9	4	9	33	29	31
Fulham	21	7	9	5	22	21	30
Charlton Athletic	22	7	8	7	28	28	29
West Ham United	22	7	7	8	26	34	28
Sunderland	22	7	6	9	18	24	27
Everton	22	7	5	10	24	29	26
Blackburn Rovers	22	6	7	9	29	27	25
Southampton	22	8	1	13	26	36	25
Bolton Wanderers	22	5	9	8	26	34	24
Middlesbrough	21	6	4	11	20	30	22
Ipswich Town	22	5	6	11	28	32	21
Derby County	22	5	4	13	16	38	19
Leicester City	21	3	7	11	14	37	16

FIRST DIVISION

Stockport 0 Crystal Palace 1, Manchester City 3 Norwich 1, Wolverhampton 3 Coventry 1, Bradford 3 Portsmouth 1, Gillingham 0 Sheffield Utd 1, Grimsby 0 West Brom 0, Nottingham Forest 0 Barnsley 0, Rotherham 1 Watford 1, Sheffield Wednesday 1 Crewe 0, Walsall 1 Preston 2, Wimbledon 0 Burnley 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester City	28	17	4	7	66	37	55
Wolverhampton	28	15	7	6	43	24	52
Burnley	27	15	6	6	49	38	51
Millwall	28	14	7	7	49	30	49
Norwich	29	15	4	10	42	39	49
West Brom	29	14	6	9	33	23	48
Birmingham	29	13	8	8	45	33	47
Crystal Palace	28	14	2	12	49	40	44
Preston	28	11	10	7	44	36	43
Coventry	28	13	4	11	34	29	43
Watford	27	11	7	9	42	32	40
Nottingham Forest	29	9	12	8	32	27	39
Gillingham	28	11	6	11	41	39	39
Sheffield United	29	9	11	9	32	35	38
Wimbledon	27	9	9	9	42	39	36
Portsmouth	28	10	6	12	40	44	36
Bradford	28	10	5	13	49	53	35
Rotherham	27	7	10	10	34	41	31
Barnsley	29	7	10	12	39	52	31
Crewe	27	7	8	12	26	42	29
Walsall	29	7	6	16	32	48	27
Sheffield Wednesday	28	6	9	13	28	45	27
Grimsby	29	6	9	14	25	48	27
Stockport	29	2	6	21	25	67	12

SECOND DIVISION

Northampton 1 Stoke 1, Swindon 1 Bristol City 2, Blackpool 4 Bournemouth 3, Cambridge United 0 Notts County 2, Cardiff 0 Peterborough 2, Chesterfield 4 Oldham 2, Huddersfield 0 Reading 1, Port Vale 2 Brentford 1, QPR 3 Bury 0, Tranmere 0 Colchester 0, Wigan 3 Brighton 0, Wrexham 0 Wycombe 0

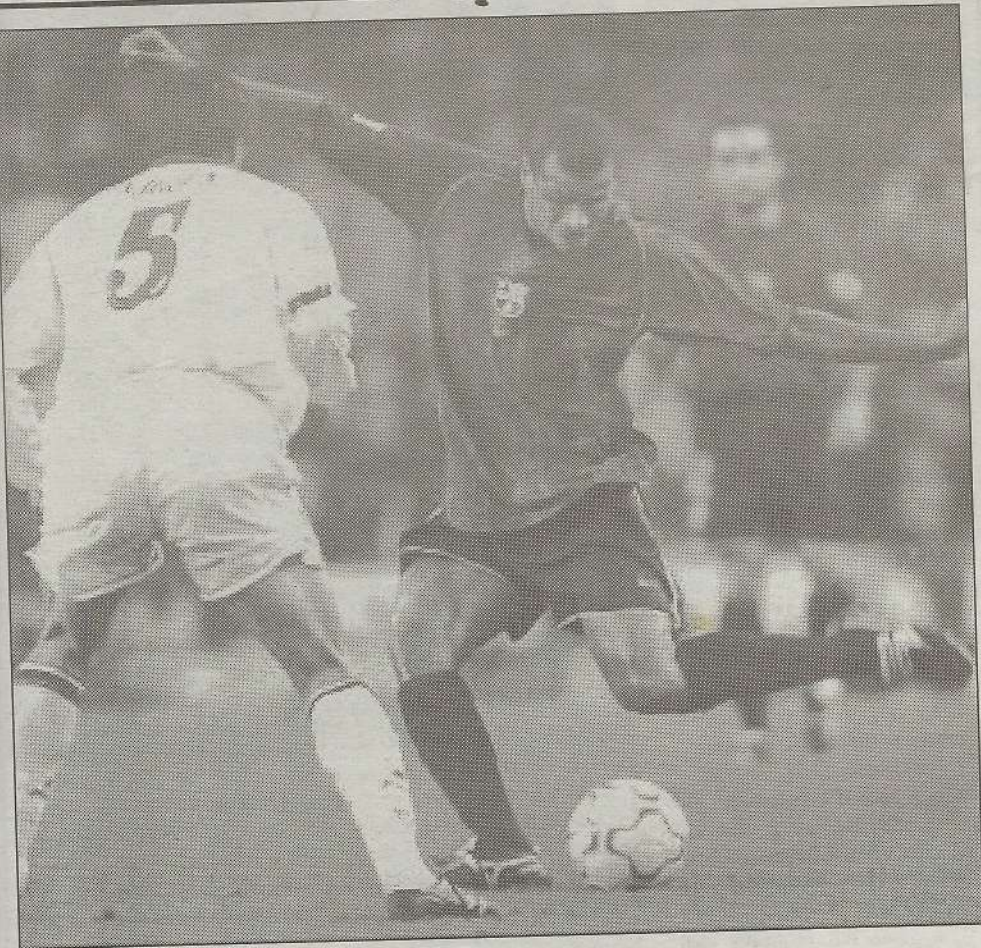
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	27	16	4	7	39	24	52
Bristol City	28	15	6	7	45	28	51
Stoke	26	14	8	4	40	22	50
Brighton	25	12	10	3	34	22	46
Brentford	26	13	6	7	48	30	45
QPR	27	12	7	8	41	31	43
Tranmere	25	11	7	7	45	34	40
Oldham	26	10	9	7	43	33	39
Wycombe	25	10	9	6	38	32	39
Colchester	27	11	6	10	44	43	39
Huddersfield	25	10	8	7	37	28	38
Cardiff	26	9	11	6	38	32	38
Wigan	27	8	10	9	39	33	34
Peterborough	25	10	4	11	36	32	34
Blackpool	27	8	10	9	36	44	34
Port Vale	28	9	6	13	32	40	33
Chesterfield	25	8	7	10	34	35	31
Swindon	25	8	7	10	27	34	31
Bournemouth	26	7	7	12	29	38	28
Notts County	26	6	8	12	34	43	26
Bury	26	7	5	14	26	45	26
Wrexham	28	6	5	17	30	59	23
Cambridge Utd	26	4	7	15	23	50	19
Northampton	26	5	3	18	24	50	18

THIS WEEK

(Saturday, January 19)

Charlton vs Aston Villa
Tottenham vs Everton
Chelsea vs West Ham
Derby vs Ipswich
Leeds vs Arsenal
Leicester vs Newcastle
Liverpool vs Southampton
Manchester Utd vs Blackburn
Middlesbrough vs Bolton
Sunderland vs Fulham

Spanish Primera



Barcelona's player Brazilian star, Rivaldo (right) vies with Sevilla's Zoran Njegus.

Real Madrid sprint clear

Real Madrid went four points clear at the top of La Liga with this narrow victory over Valencia at the Bernabeu on Sunday.

Fernando Morientes got the only goal of the game, capitalising on an error from David Albelda to hook the ball home on 70 minutes. It had looked like being a frustrating evening for the champions, as they bossed possession but struggled to create clear-cut chances against the league's second tightest defence.

But Luis Figo's cross from the right on 70 minutes deflected off Mauricio Pellegrino and, as Albelda took his time con-

trolling the spinning ball, Morientes took full advantage.

Deportivo La Coruna suffered another blow to their championship challenge when they crashed heavily at Real Valladolid on Sunday. Jabo Irueta's men were beaten 3-0 in the Jose Zorrilla, their seventh Liga defeat of the season. Marcos opened the home side's account on 31 minutes. Fernando doubled their advantage and 60 seconds later, before sealing the game midway through the second half.

Sevilla star Tomas stunned Barcelona when he popped up at the far post to score after just five minutes, but the lead was

short-lived as Patrick Kluivert's clever flick found Rivaldo, who rounded his marker before firing into the corner. Barca then dominated proceedings and took the lead 13 minutes into the second period when Gabri pounced on a rebound from a Rivaldo free-kick.

The Brazilian maestro ensured victory for the

Catalans with a curling effort inside the near post. Vagner's first-half opener looked like taking Celta Vigo to the top in their game with Osasuna. But Cesar Cruchaga pulled the visitors to the Balaidos level 20 minutes after the interval and gave Osasuna a valuable point in their relegation fight.

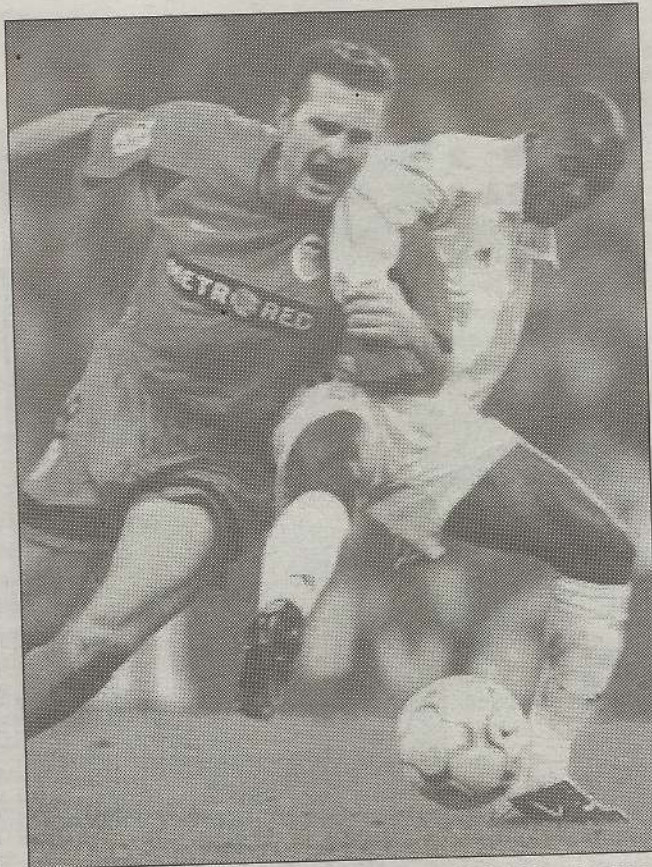
Real Betis drew 1-1 with Malaga in the Andalucian derby. Juanito opened the scoring for the home side in the Manuel Ruiz de Lopera Stadium a minute after the break. Litos levelled for the visitors after 66 minutes to earn Malaga a share of the spoils, before Betis had Cesar sent off.

A goal from Magno Mocelin was enough to give Alaves victory over Tenerife in the Mendizorroza, while Real Zaragoza were forced to settle for a point at home to Espanyol. Real Mallorca saw their season take another turn for the worse as they lost 3-1 to Las Palmas.

THIS WEEK

(Sunday, January 20)

Espanyol vs Betis
Malaga vs Real Madrid
Valencia vs Valladolid
Deportivo Coruna vs Las Palmas
Mallorca vs Athletic Bilbao
Real Sociedad vs Alaves
Tenerife vs Celta Vigo
Osasuna vs Villarreal
Rayo Vallecano vs Barcelona
Sevilla vs Zaragoza



Real Madrid's French Claude Makelele (right) tries to stop Ruben Baraja of Valencia.

Alaves 1 Tenerife 0, Barcelona 3 Sevilla 1, Celta Vigo 1 Osasuna 1, Las Palmas 3 Real Mallorca 1, Real Betis 1 Malaga 1, Real Madrid 1 Valencia 0, Real Zaragoza 0 Espanyol 0, Valladolid 3 Deportivo Coruna 0, Athletic Bilbao 2 Real Sociedad 1, Villarreal 1 Rayo Vallecano 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	20	11	5	4	37	22	38
Athletic Bilbao	20	9	7	4	29	26	34
Celta Vigo	20	8	9	3	37	23	33
Barcelona	20	9	6	5	30	18	33
Alaves	19	10	3	6	20	12	33
Deportivo Coruna	20	10	3	7	33	28	33
Valencia	20	8	9	3	23	17	33
Real Betis	20	9	5	6	21	19	32
Valladolid	20	8	4	8	23	33	28
Las Palmas	20	7	6	7	23	17	27
Sevilla	20	7	6	7	30	25	27
Malaga	20	6	7	7	23	25	25
Espanyol	20	7	4	9	24	31	25
Real Zaragoza	20	7	3	10	18	27	24
Villarreal	20	6	5	9	20	23	23
Osasuna	20	6	5	9	18	25	23
Tenerife	20	6	3	11	14	24	21
Real Mallorca	20	5	5	10	20	29	20
Real Sociedad	20	5	4	11	24	29	19
Rayo Vallecano	19	3	5	11	19	33	14

BELGIAN ERSTEKLASSE



Genk's Wesley Sonck (right) kicks the ball in front of Beveren's Toure Gneri.

LIEGE CRUSH CHARLEROI

Eight games produced 34 goals in Belgium at the weekend, with in-form Standard Liege producing the best display by crashing six past Charleroi without reply.

Jurgen Cavens was on target for Liege on his return from Marseille and Almai Moreira struck twice to help destroy the sorry Zebres and move the Wallonia giants level with Club Bruges at the top.

Anderlecht lost ground when Patrick Goots came up with a late equaliser for Royal Antwerp.

The Brussels side had fought back to lead 2-1 after Goots opened the scoring in the 27th minute. Bertrand Crasson equalised for Les Mauves within minutes of the restart and Yugoslav striker Nenad Jestrovic looked to have claimed the win with a late goal.

But Goots levelled in the dying moments to earn a vital point in his club's fight against relegation.

Club Bruges rediscovered their form with a comfortable 4-1 at Westerlo on Saturday - despite being reduced to ten men early in the game. The leaders were ahead through a Mario Verheyen own goal on the half-hour when Rune Lange was dismissed.

But the visitors sealed the points with goals from Josip Simic, Andres Mendoza and Koen Schockaert in the second period. Vedran Pelic claimed a consolation.

Genk kept up the pressure on the leaders as first-half goals from David Paas and Wesley Sonck disposed of bottom-club Beveren.

Tomas Danilevicius pulled one back, but Sonck completed his hat-trick. Paas claimed a second and De Camargo netted late in the game to complete a 6-1 rout.

The win took Genk into third, while a goal from Alexander Kaklamanos was enough to see Ghent home against St Truidense.

Excelsior Mouscron thrashed Eendracht Aalst 6-1, RWD Molenbeek slipped to a 1-0 defeat at home to Lommel and Lokeren beat Lierse 2-1.

Royal Antwerp 2 Anderlecht 2, Standard Liege 6 Charleroi 0, Beveren 1 Genk 6, Lokeren 2 Lierse 1, Molenbeek 0 Lommel 1, Mouscron 6 Aalst 1, St Truiden 0 Gent 1, Westerlo 1 Club Brugge 4, La Louviere 1 Beerschot 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Bruges	18	13	1	4	42	20	40
Standard Liege	18	12	4	2	38	18	40
Genk	18	11	6	1	54	24	39
Ghent	18	12	3	3	33	21	39
Anderlecht	18	10	6	2	38	20	36
Lokeren	18	9	5	4	27	18	32
Beerschot	18	7	6	5	36	25	27
Mouscron	18	8	1	9	40	28	25
St Truiden	18	6	4	8	26	28	22
Lommel	18	5	6	7	29	36	21
Charleroi	18	6	3	9	15	35	21
Westerlo	18	5	3	10	29	36	18
Lierse	18	4	5	9	26	31	17
Molenbeek	18	5	2	11	23	33	17
Royal Antwerp	18	4	5	9	24	31	17
La Louviere	18	3	6	9	21	37	15
Eendracht Aalst	18	4	3	11	18	46	15
Beveren	18	1	5	12	17	49	8

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE



Rangers' Claudio Caniggia celebrates his goal against Livingston. Rangers beat Livingston with 3-0.

CANNIGIA'S BRACE KEEP RANGERS IN TOUCH

Argentine veteran, Claudio Caniggia hit two goals past hapless Livingston over the weekend to help Glasgow Rangers to a fine 3-0 win. His first was a low shot that went in off the far post after being put through by a fine pass from Dutchman Ronald de Boer.

Elsewhere, Celtic manager Martin O'Neil defended Bulgarian Stilian Petrov of diving which led to Celtic's penalty and ultimately a 2-0 defeat for Kilmarnock in the Scottish Premier League. "Some of our subs were warming up and said that it was an absolute penalty.

"I haven't seen the replay since but I think Stilian has learned a lesson from the Aberdeen affair (where he was booked for diving before Christmas) and I don't think he would have gone down unless he was fouled."

The victory kept the champions 13 points clear of Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premier League table.

Celtic have 64 points and Rangers, 3-0 winners at home to third-placed Livingston. Livingston have 40.

Defender Peter Canero was adjudged to have fouled Petrov in the 51st minute and Hartson stroked the penalty past keeper Gordon Marshall.

Norwegian Tore Andre Flo scored first as Rangers cruised past Livingston, who had managed a 0-0 draw in the sides' previous meeting at Ibrox in August.

He ran on to a through ball from midfielder Barry Hughes, rounded keeper Nick Culkin and tapped it home.

Caniggia, who was 35 last week was on target again with his fourth league goal of the season three minutes from time, turning home a cross from substitute Neil McCann.

"I don't think I would be too far off the mark in saying that our 3-0 win over Livingston was our best performance at Ibrox since I took over as manager," said McLeish after Rangers' fourth consecutive win.

"I thought the way the players performed in the first half was the key to picking up these three points but I have to say that they showed great professionalism to keep control of the game when we were 2-0 up."

Belgian Roberto Bisconti had a mixed afternoon in Aberdeen's 3-1 defeat at Hearts. Bisconti hammered home Aberdeen's equaliser on the stroke of halftime after Finn Tommi Gronlund had put Hearts ahead in the 38th minute.

But he was sent off in the 64th minute for two yellow card offences in quick succession, the second for dissent, and Hearts scored further goals through Steve Fulton and Gary Wales to leap over Aberdeen into fourth place.

Another player was sent off at Dundee where the home side beat Hibernian 1-0 with a goal from China defender Fan Zhiyi in the 66th minute.

Frederic Arpinon was red-carded in the 67th minute for spitting at an opponent.

Kilmarnock 0 Celtic 2, Dundee 1 Hibernian 0, Hearts 3 Aberdeen 1, Motherwell 2 Dundee United 0, Rangers 3 Livingston 0, St. Johnstone 0 Dunfermline 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	24	22	1	1	57	11	67
Rangers	23	15	6	2	52	17	51
Livingston	23	11	7	5	33	20	40
Hearts	24	10	4	10	34	29	34
Aberdeen	23	10	3	10	32	35	33
Kilmarnock	24	9	4	11	23	28	31
Dunfermline	23	8	4	11	25	37	28
Dundee	22	7	5	10	23	34	26
Dundee Utd	24	6	7	11	23	43	25
Motherwell	24	6	6	12	31	45	24
Hibernian	24	5	7	12	27	36	22
St. Johnstone	24	3	4	17	15	40	13

FRENCH CHAMPIONNAT

PSG CONTINUE FINE FORM

Paris St Germain jumped into third spot over the weekend in the French Championnat, after surviving a frantic last 20 minutes for a 2-1 win away to Rennes.

Christophe Le Roux gave the home side a glimmer of hope with his strike on 70 minutes but Rennes was unable to breach the PSG defence again.

PSG's all-Brazilian attack proved the difference with Aloisio, Alex Dias and Ronaldinho all performing well for Luis Fernandez. Ronaldinho opened the scoring with a typical Brazilian free-kick on 20 minutes, past Rennes keeper Eric Durand after he was fouled on the edge of the area by Gregory Paisley.

Deep into stoppage time, Alex doubled the lead when he comfortably slotted home Mikel Arteta's perfect through ball. On his debut for the Bretons, Laurent Battles, a \$A4.5 million transfer from Bordeaux last week, saw a fierce close range shot saved by Lionel Letizi. However he provided the spark Rennes needed 10 minutes later as his cross picked out Le Roux, who headed home from six yards.

Two of Albert Emon's five new signings scored but a first-half lead proved to be a false dawn for Marseille which allowed Bastia to take a point back to Corsica after a 2-2 draw. Alfonso Perez took just six minutes to open scoring for his new club. Then Alvaro Rivera, on loan from Real, doubled the home side's advantage in the 33rd minute.

Nine-man Montpellier hung on to Cedric Barbosa's first half strike to continue Sochaux's poor run of home form in a 1-0 win. This result made it three defeats in the last four home games, despite referee Franck Glochon dismissing both Aliou Cisse and Guillaume Moullec in one second-half minute. Marcelo Gallardo's goal secured resurgent Monaco a 1-0 victory over Lorient and its fourth successive league win. Lucas Bernardi found Shabani Nonda advancing through midfield. He took the ball past Lorient defender Richard Martini before crossing to Gallardo, Monaco's best player on the night, who placed the ball past Sebastien Hamel with a right-foot shot.

The prospect of Le Championnat safety looms a little larger for Nantes following their battling 2-0 win over fellow strugglers Guingamp. Second-half goals from Viorel Moldovan and Sylvain Armand gave the embattled champion its third successive win and moved it above Guingamp into 14th spot.



Nantes' Viorel Moldovan (left) against Guingamp as his teammate Marama Vahirua looks on.

ing through midfield. He took the ball past Lorient defender Richard Martini before crossing to Gallardo, Monaco's best player on the night, who placed the ball past Sebastien Hamel with a right-foot shot.

The prospect of Le Championnat safety looms a little larger for Nantes following their battling 2-0 win over fellow strugglers Guingamp. Second-half goals from Viorel Moldovan and Sylvain Armand gave the embattled champion its third successive win and moved it above Guingamp into 14th spot.

Nantes 2 Guingamp 0, Auxerre v Bordeaux - postponed, Lyon v Troyes - (postponed), Sochaux 0 Montpellier 1, Marseille 2 Bastia 2, Metz v Sedan - (postponed), Monaco 1 Lorient 0, Rennes 1 Paris Saint Germain 2, Lille 0 Lens 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lens	20	13	5	2	36	4	44
Lyon	19	11	3	5	37	20	36
PSG	21	8	10	3	25	16	34
Auxerre	18	9	6	3	26	18	33
Lille	20	9	6	5	25	20	33
Bordeaux	19	8	7	4	17	11	31
Montpellier	19	7	7	5	20	15	28
Sochaux	21	7	7	7	28	26	28
Monaco	20	7	5	8	22	22	26
Troyes	18	7	4	7	21	21	25
Marseille	20	5	9	6	19	19	24
Bastia	20	7	2	11	22	31	23
Sedan	19	5	7	7	22	22	22
Nantes	21	6	4	11	18	28	22
Rennes	21	5	5	11	20	33	20
Guingamp	21	5	5	11	18	37	20
Metz	17	5	2	10	9	18	17
Lorient	20	4	4	12	28	42	16

PORTUGUESE LIGA



Benfica's Andrade (centre) goes past Varzim's Mendonca (left) and Medeiros.

EIGHT-MAN SPORTING HOLD PORTO

Sporting Lisbon coach Laszlo Boloni paid tribute to the spirit of his side after they held out for a 2-2 draw against Porto with just eight men. "We demonstrated enormous heart," said the Romanian.

Jorge Andrade gave Porto the lead from the spot on seven minutes, then Mario Jardel missed a penalty for Sporting before the visitors exploded into life just after the half-hour.

Pedro Barbosa levelled on 32 minutes and, moments later, Jardel added a second from the spot.

"There were only 45 minutes of football in the game," Boloni went on. "We were better in the first half and Porto only created problems with the pace of Deco and Capucho. In the second half we got the red cards, yet it was still even."

Paulo Bento was dismissed on 59 minutes after picking up a second yellow card. He was followed 16 minutes later by Pedro Barbosa, just after Deco had levelled the score. Jardel then collected his second caution in injury-time.

"Before the game, I asked my players not to respond to provocation," Boloni said. "Their duty is to accept the pressure, but they couldn't do it."

Porto coach Octavio Machado was fuming at the two penalties his side conceded, particularly the first, when Joao Pinto was adjudged to have been brought down by Vitor Baia.

"Joao Pinto has deceived people," he said. "Boloni criticised Alverca players for diving last week, but his team did the same thing here. To fake a penalty is unacceptable."

The victory left Sporting four points clear of Porto at the top of the table. Champions Boavista are third, but have a game in hand, while Benfica lie fourth, five points back, after coming from two down to beat Varzim.

Farense 2 Salgueiros 1, Benfica 3 Varzim 2, Porto 2 Sporting 2, Gil Vicente 2 Vitoria Guimaraes 1, (Playing on Monday) Alverca v Santa Clara, Uniao Leiria v Braga, Vitoria Setubal v Maritimo, Belenenses v Pacos Ferreira, Beira Mar v Boavista.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting	18	11	4	3	40	15	37
Porto	18	10	3	5	31	16	33
Boavista	17	10	3	4	28	13	33
Benfica	18	8	8	2	29	20	32
Uniao Leiria	17	8	6	3	30	15	30
Belenenses	17	8	4	5	25	24	28
Vitoria Guimaraes	18	7	4	6	20	20	25
Gil Vicente	18	7	3	8	23	30	24
Braga	17	6	5	6	23	15	23
Maritimo	17	7	2	8	21	20	23
Santa Clara	17	6	5	6	15	20	23
Pacos Ferreira	17	5	6	6	20	26	21
Salgueiros	18	6	3	9	18	35	21
Beira Mar	17	4	6	7	27	28	18
Farense	18	5	3	10	14	27	18
Vitoria Setubal	17	4	5	8	19	21	17
Alverca	17	4	3	10	19	34	15
Varzim	18	2	5	11	13	36	11

WORLD LEAGUES

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Olympiakos 4 Panahaiki 0, OFI Crete 4 Ionikos 0, Akkratitos 1 PAOK 2, Panionios 1 Aris 0, Iraklis 3 AEK Athens 2, Panathinaikos 2 Aigaleo 1, Ethnikos 0 Xanthi 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK Athens	11	9	0	2	27	10	27
Olympiakos	11	7	4	0	30	12	25
PAOK	11	6	3	2	19	14	21
Xanthi	11	5	4	2	17	11	19
Panathinaikos	11	5	3	3	25	13	18
OFI Crete	11	5	2	4	15	13	17
Iraklis	11	4	4	3	14	15	16
Aris	11	4	4	3	13	12	16
Panionios	11	3	4	4	14	20	13
Ethnikos	11	3	3	5	10	14	12
Panionios	11	2	4	4	13	20	10
Akratitos	11	2	3	6	12	16	9
Panahaiki	11	1	3	7	9	27	6
Aigaleo	11	1	2	8	13	27	5
Ionikos	11	0	5	6	7	21	5

S. AFRICAN FIRST DIVISION

AmaZulu 1 Ajax Cape Town 1, Free State Stars 0 SuperSport United 1, Ria Stars 0 Orlando Pirates 0, Hellenic 0 Santos 1, Golden Arrows 2 Wits University 0, Moroka Swallows 3 Black Leopards 1, Classic 0 Manning Rangers 0, Kaizer Chiefs 1 Umtata Bush Bucks 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moroka Swallows	19	11	5	3	26	15	38
Santos	19	10	6	3	26	16	36
Orlando Pirates	18	8	7	3	20	13	31
SuperSport United	18	9	4	5	21	20	31
Black Leopards	18	8	6	4	31	21	30
Manning Rangers	18	9	3	6	32	21	30
Ajax Cape Town	18	7	5	6	17	13	26
Jomo Cosmos	17	7	4	6	18	15	25
Umtata Bush Bucks	19	7	4	8	22	24	25
Kaizer Chiefs	16	6	5	5	19	20	23
Wits University	20	5	8	7	16	18	23
Free State Stars	19	5	6	8	16	17	21
Golden Arrows	19	4	9	6	20	22	21
Ria Stars	18	4	6	8	19	24	18
Mamelodi Sun.	11	4	5	2	10	7	17
Hellenic	17	3	5	9	10	25	14
AmaZulu	19	2	7	10	11	25	13
Classic	19	0	9	10	11	29	9

LEBANESE FIRST DIVISION

Al-Ahly Sidon 1 Al-Ansar 2, Al-Ahed 1 Homenetmen 0, Akha-Ahly 3 Shabab Al-Sahel 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shabab Al-Sahel	7	4	2	1	8	5	14
Al-Ahed	7	3	4	0	11	7	13
Al-Salam Zghorta	6	3	3	0	12	5	12
Al-Nijmeh	6	3	2	1	12	6	11
Al-Ansar	6	3	2	1	11	9	11
Sagesse	6	3	2	1	15	14	11
Safa	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Al-Bourj	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
Al-Tadamon Tyre	6	2	3	1	8	4	9
Akha-Ahly	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Al-Ahly Sidon	7	1	1	5	6	15	4
Homenetmen	7	0	2	5	3	10	2
Homenmen	6	0	2	4	3	9	2
Racing Club	6	0	2	4	4	11	2

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

After Round 14

After Round 14	TOTAL							PTS	HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	Bye	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A		
PERTH GLORY	13	10	2	1	1	32	12	32	7	6	1	0	16	5	6	4	1	1	16	7		
BRISBANE STRIKERS	13	7	4	2	1	21	14	25	6	3	2	1	8	5	7	4	4	1	13	9		
NEWCASTLE UNITED	13	6	6	1	1	18	11	24	6	4	2	0	8	2	7	2	4	1	10	9		
OLYMPIC SHARKS	13	6	2	5	1	17	11	20	7	4	2	1	9	3	6	2	0	4	8	6		
MARCONI STALLIONS	13	5	4	4	1	15	15	19	6	3	2	1	9	7	7	2	2	3	6	8		
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	13	6	1	6	1	17	18	19	6	4	1	2	9	9	6	2	0	4	8	11		
PARRAMATTA POWER	13	5	3	5	1	15	15	18	6	3	1	2	9	8	7	2	2	3	6	7		
NORTHERN SPIRIT	13	5	3	5	1	19	21	18	7	2	1	4	7	13	6	3	2	1	12	8		
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	13	3	4	6	1	14	22	13	6	2	0	4	5	9	7	1	2	4	8	13		
ADELAIDE CITY	12	2	5	5	2	16	17	11	6	2	3	1	12	7	6	0	2	4	4	10		
SYDNEY UNITED	13	3	2	8	1	11	21	11	7	1	2	4	7	14	6	3	0	3	4	5		
SOUTH MELBOURNE	13	2	4	7	1	7	13	10	9	2	2	5	7	11	4	0	2	2	0	2		
KINGZ FC	13	2	4	7	1	20	32	10	6	2	2	3	9	15	7	0	2	5	11	19		

MARCONI STALLIONS

(J Maisano 75)

WOLLONGONG WOLVES

(D Mennillo 84)

Venue: Sydney United SG. Crowd: 3,286. Referee: C Zetter.
Cautions: Renaud (MS) 60. Red Cards: Huxley (WW) 57.

Teams: **MARCONI STALLIONS:** Turnbull, Beauchamp, Costanzo, Longo, Care, Renaud, Maisano, Tome (Radulovic 85), Webb, Brosque, Gibson (Bozinovski 85).
WOLLONGONG WOLLONGONG: Anastasiadis, Ceccoli, Stanton (McDonald 66), Cervinski, Castro, Reid (Wells 85), Young, Sekulovski (Sharland 44), Anthopoulos, Huxley, Mennillo.

NORTHERN SPIRIT

(A Cervinski 41)

PARRAMATTA POWER

Venue: North Sydney Oval. Crowd: 3,413. Referee: M Breeze.
Cautions: T Cranney (NS) 18', J Buonavoglia (PP) 31', A Kwasnik (PP) 66', S Thomas (NS) 68', L Lapsansky (PP) 92+.

Teams: **NORTHERN SPIRIT:** Henderson, Watts, Bell, Thomas, McDermott, Foster, Cervinski (Griffiths 69), Cardozo, Cranney (Spencer 83), Hutchinson, Cartwright.
PARRAMATTA POWER: Pogliacomini, Barrett, Orlic, Tobin, O'Sullivan, Arambasic (Erich 65), Lapsansky, Fitzsimmons (Kwasnik 65), Buonavoglia, Eagleton (Langdon 87), Bennett.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Paul Foster: Seen here remonstrating with the referee, scored a brace for the Brisbane Strikers in a crucial 2-1 victory over the Kingz FC at Ericsson Stadium last Friday night.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

(Marth 61, De Jesus 89)

NEWCASTLE UNITED

(Middleby 49)

Venue: Knights Stadium. Crowd: 4,338. Referee: Mark Shield.
Cautions: Marth (MK) 66, Dodd (NU) 78, McBreen (NU) 84, De Jesus (MK) 93+, Baillie (NU) 94+.

Teams: **MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:** John, R. Vargas, Ogne'ovski, Horvat, Marth, Vasilevski, Porter, Da Costa, Jolic, Rocco, De Jesus.
NEWCASTLE UNITED: Beltrame, Roberts, Zoricich, Bingley, Wilson, Griffiths, Baillie, Blagojevic, Shirripa, Masi (McBreen 62), Middleby (Dodd 52).

KINGZ FC

(G Goutzioulis 7)

BRISBANE STRIKERS

(P Foster 34, 42)

Venue: Ericsson Stadium. Crowd: 3,473. Referee: D Rugg.

Teams: **KINGZ FC:** Theoklitos, Perry, Goutzioulis, Urlovic (Burton 46), Vlahos, Ngata (Miyazawa 83), Campbell (Davis 75), Markovski, Hooker, Jackson, Douglas.
BRISBANE STRIKERS: Kearton, Alagich, Stefanutto, McLaren, Grierson, Rech, Foster (Baird 81), Trajanovski (McQuilter 68), Carbone (McKay 76), Heath, Dreger.

PERTH GLORY

SOUTH MELBOURNE

Venue: Perth Oval. Crowd: 13,297. Referee: C Diomis.

Teams: **PERTH GLORY:** J Petkovic, Horsley, Harnwell, Deans, Miller, Maloney (Edwards 67), Despotovski, Garcia (Faria 67), Junior, Mori, Pryce.
SOUTH MELBOURNE: M Petkovic, Iosifidis, Liparoti, Coveny (Bacak 59), Buljan, Sekulovski, Tolios, Murdocca (Petrovic 90), Kisorbo, Lia, Boutsianis (Bell 76).

SYDNEY UNITED

(Z Kopic 83)

OLYMPIC SHARKS

(J North 2 & 39, T Pondeljak 61, L Wilson 79)

Venue: Sydney United SC. Crowd: 4,589. Referee: P Mur.
Cautions: Mendez (SU) 54, Deur (SU) 67.

Teams: **SYDNEY UNITED:** Knezevic, Arrarte, Cunico, Mendez, Milicic, Deur, Talevski, Genc (Marusic 46), Jedinak (Watkins 69), Sinozic, Cevenini (Kopic 46).
OLYMPIC SHARKS: Bolton, Kohler, Wilson, Halpin, North (Doumanis 79), Augerinos (Zorbas 63), Owens (Pondeljak 46), Carle, Packer, Durante, Juric.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
DAMIAN MORI	Perth Glory	11
DESPOTOVSKI Bobby	Perth Glory	10
FOSTER Paul	Brisbane Strikers	8
CARDOZO Pablo	Northern Spirit	7
MILICIC Ante	Sydney United	7
GRIFFITHS Joel	Newcastle United	6
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers	6
TUNBRIDGE Scott	Adelaide City Force	6
URLOVIC Paul	Kingz FC	6

ROUND 15

FRIDAY JANUARY 18

Wollongong Wolves vs Parramatta Power
Newcastle United vs Northern Spirit
Adelaide City vs Melb Knights
South Melbourne vs Kingz FC

SATURDAY JANUARY 19

Brisbane Strikers vs Sydney United
Marconi Stallions vs Perth Glory
Olympic Sharks vs Bye

BYE - ADELAIDE CITY FORCE